Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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FACTORY IN TOP 10 'AT RISK'

BY DAVID COSGROVE

Chance Glassworks

A HISTORIC factory which produced glass for the clock face of Big Ben is one of the 10 most endangered Victorian buildings, according to a new report.

Chance Glassworks in Smethwick has been named in The Victorian Society's list of at-risk Victorian and Edwardian buildings in England and Wales.

The Grade II-listed factory is described by the Society as 'arguably one of the most important industrial sites in the West Midlands'.

It produced glass for Crystal Palace and the Great Exhibition in 1851, the clock faces of Big Ben as well as other glass in the Palace of Westminster. More than 2,000 Victorian lighthouse lanterns around the world also had their glass designed at the plant, built in 1824. The factory, off Spon Lane has been derelict for three decades.

In recent years campaigners have launched a £10 million plan to bring it back to life. Graham Fisher, of The Chance Glass Works Heritage Trust, said: "It is one of the most important industrial sites in the country in terms of its heritage."

The trust's proposals aim to create a 'mixed-use development' which will also pay tribute to the site's history.

Heritage

Mr Fisher added: "We've got some plans but we want to hear back from the community as well. There will be a nod towards the site's heritage, but we also want to take the whole site forward as well.

"Being on the endangered list might help focus people's attention on what we have to do and what we have proposed to do."

Much of the site in held on a long lease by No 1 Skip Hire, which the Victorian Society described as 'a totally unsuitable use for a nationally historic site'.

The company has previously said it would not leave unless an alternative place was found. However, the Heritage Trust has said it believes the skip hire firm will be moved from the site by November.

Tim Bridges, caseworker at the Victorian Society, said: "It is important that a more sensitive approach be adopted to preserve the significant heritage of this scheduled ancient monument with its collection of listed buildings."

Powers used on travellers for first time

POWERS to direct travellers to a new transit site in Smethwick have been used for the first time.

An unauthorised encampment of three caravans were moved from land in Wednesbury in less than four hours on Sunday.

The group was served with instructions to relocate to the new transit site in Smethwick or leave the area.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for regeneration Councillor Paul Moore said: "This is the first time we have used the new powers to direct groups to the transit site. They decided they would rather go elsewhere and were quickly followed out of Sandwell by our warden service."

The transit site, off Boulton Road, has room for up to 34 caravans which will be charged £80 per week per caravan, plus a £250 deposit. There are strict rules in place on littering and behaviour.

Theft blow for group of musicians

A MUSICAL charity has been left reeling after robbers took thousands of pounds of equipment which had been locked in the back of their van.

The People's Orchestra, a West Bromwich charity, had a bulky public address system, cables, wires and IT equipment stolen. The culprits even left with a packet of teabags.

The theft, in Halesowen, was noticed by charity bosses as they prepared to set off for rehearsals in Birmingham on Sunday.

It is the second time the People's Orchestra has suffered a setback in recent months after a large number of music stands were previously taken from inside a car.

Managing Director, Sarah Marshall, has estimated that the stolen equipment could cost as much as £2,000 to replace.

A fundraising page has been set up online. Donate at www.gofundme.com/sbsed-somone-stole-our-teabags

On the run to raise Smile for Joel cash

Suzy Evans and Owen Richards, who set up Smile For Joel

Runners take part at Sandwell Valley Country Park

AROUND 1,000 runners turned out for a celebration remembering the lives of three members of a Black Country family who were killed in the Tunisia beach terror attack.

They donned their running shoes at Sandwell Valley Country Park to raise funds for Smile for Joel, set up by the family of victims Joel Richards, Adrian Evans and Patrick Evans.

It was an an emotional day for Suzy Evans, from Wednesbury, who lost her son, brother and father in the 2015 attack, and her son Owen, who survived the atrocity. Run for Joel featured two competitive races, over 5km and 3km. There was also a fun run for the youngsters. Thousands of pounds were raised for the charity, which supports families who have lost loved ones in tragic circumstances.

The final total is not yet known but last year's event raised £27,000.

Friends and family rallied round, with one couple, Adam and Trudy Russell, from Wednesbury, even cutting short their honeymoon in Ibiza so they could make it.

Families of other victims, and survivors, also attended the event.

COURT

Three are facing terrorism charges

A MAN from Great Barr is among three suspected neo-Nazi sympathisers charged with terrorism offences.

Alexander Deakin, aged 22, of Brecon Road, is accused of being a member of the banned far-right group National Action and has been charged with inciting racial hatred. Two soldiers – one based in Cyprus and one based in Powys, Wales – have also been charged with belonging to National Action, the first extreme right-wing group to be banned under terrorism laws.

Deakin has been charged with being a member of a proscribed organisation, two counts under Section 58 of the Terrorism Act 2000, one count of distribution of a terrorist publication and is also charged separately with one count of inciting racial hatred.

All three were due to appear at Westminster Magistrates Court on Tuesday.

POLICE

Job risk fears as salary cap lifted

TENS of police officers could lose their jobs as a result of a pay cap being lifted in the West Midlands, warns police & crime commissioner David Jamieson.

He says 80 police officers would need to be axed with each one per cent pay rise costing the force £4 million.

"The Government must provide resources to fund the pay increases, so pay increases for some are not job losses for others," he said.

PUB

Drinkers raise a glass to Brit Pop

A PUB in Rowley Regis has re-opened with a brewery based on site.

The Britannia Inn brew pub in Rowley Village is now home to Britt Brewery.

A competition to choose names for the brewery's first ales came up with Brew Britannia and Brit Pop.

INSIDE

CHALLENGE IS WHEELY GREAT

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Primary school told it must do better

Hateley Heath Primary

A SCHOOL has been told to improve by the education watchdog after inspectors criticised the progress of its pupils – and noted a decline in standards over the last five years.

Hateley Heath Primary, in West Bromwich, was told by Ofsted inspectors the effectiveness of its leadership and management, quality of teaching, personal development and outcomes for pupils all 'required improvement'.

The inspection, which took place on June 28, found 'pupils' progress' was not 'consistently strong enough' to allow them to reach the standards they were capable of. However, the school's early years provision was rated as 'good'.

The school opened a new nursery in October to meet the rising demands of parents needing places for their children. The facility allowed the school, which now houses 444 children, to accept a further 48 youngsters every year.

The report, published on September 6, indicated the school needed to ensure subject leaders played a 'fuller role' in improving the quality of teaching.

Teaching was deemed as not being consistently well matched to pupils' abilities. Ofsted found pupils did not consistently make the progress they were capable of and, as such, did not achieve as well as they should by the end of key stage one and key stage two.

Progress in reading, writing and mathematics at key stage two were also found to well below average standard.

Standards were said to have declined since the school's last inspection five years ago in November 2012, when Hateley Heath Primary had been rated as 'good'.

Acting headteacher Andrea Garcha said : "I am confident that we will continue to move the school forward."

Hundreds of operations cancelled on the day

HUNDREDS of patients have had operations cancelled at the last minute as Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust fails to meet national targets.

National guidelines say no more than 0.8 per cent of operations should be cancelled at the last minute due to 'non-clinical' reasons.

But in July the trust's figure was 1.2 per cent or 51 operations. The worst month was February, which saw 67 operations cancelled on the day, amounting to 1.7 per cent. Between August 2016 and July there 640 cancelled operations.

Health bosses said 50 per cent of the cancellations were avoidable, but vowed to make improvements.

The worst affected department was ophthalmology, with 50 per cent of operations cancelled in the last five months due to non-clinical reasons.

Impact

A hospital report said: "Hospital cancellations on the day of surgery result in delayed access to treatment and impact negatively on patients who have both emotionally prepared themselves for surgery and have re-organised their lives to support it.

"Review of the last five months performance in 2017 compared with the previous year demonstrates that performance has markedly deteriorated, although there has been a 47 per cent improvement between April and August 2017."

Ops were cancelled for reasons including communication errors, equipment not being available, notes missing or not being fully checked, no theatre time or no anaesthetist. Rachel Barlow, chief operating officer, said the trust aimed to meet national standards by the end of the year,

"We apologise to patients whose operations have been rescheduled. We are working hard to minimise cancellations and have already seen improvements," she said.

Old Black Sabbath tour bus for sale

The vehicle, said to be the Black Sabbath tour bus, that has gone up for sale

FORGET Crazy Train, Black Sabbath fans could get their hands on the band's former crazy bus.

A vehicle believed to be the heavy metal legends' old tour bus has gone on sale.

The battered old vehicle – that looks like it has been Into The Void and back – is being advertised on Gumtree and the advert claims it once belonged to the iconic Birmingham rockers.

The 1984 8.2litre diesel bus has been put on sale online by a seller called Bob in Gorebridge, Midlothian in Scotland. He is open to offers or says he is willing to swap the vehicle for 'something interesting... car, van or caravan'.

In the description, it says the bus was once used as a tour vehicle and later recycled to provide cheap accommodation in Edinburgh.

With their inception in 1968, Black Sabbath pioneered a sound that would form the basis of heavy metal.

Inside the battered vehicle

Food supplier fined over infestation of rodents

A FOOD supplier has been made to pay more than £16,000 after a rat and mouse infestation was discovered at its warehouse.

Pearl Food Distribution, in Oldbury, was temporarily closed down after droppings were found on packaged food and drinks. Packages had also been gnawed into and food safety chiefs said there was an 'imminent risk to health'.

Investigators found widespread droppings on top of pallets containing chicken, flour, vegetable oil and canned soft drinks in April 2016 at the wholesaler, which supplies takeaways, Wolverhampton Magistrates Court heard.

Company director Aqeel Shah, who appeared in court on behalf of Pearl Food Distribution, claimed as they did not own the building on the Imex Industrial Estate, Union Road, it was down to the landlords to fill in holes that were allowing rodents to get in.

But Mr David Elliott, prosecuting on behalf of Sandwell Council, said: "It was the company's overriding responsibility if an issue could have compromised food safety that it should have been dealt with."

The company was fined £12,000 with costs of £4,400 after pleading guilty to seven food safety and hygiene charges.

Mr Sukhdip Randhawa, defending the company, which has since moved to a new premises in Smethwick, said: "As far as harm goes, it was not open to the general public."

Police plea after boy is stabbed

POLICE have launched an appeal for information after a teenager was stabbed in the head after getting off a bus.

The 17-year-old left the number 28 bus in Dyas Road, Great Barr at around 1.30pm last Friday, after he was asked for money by another teenager who had got on without cash.

As the boy walked off, he was followed by the other teenager into Booth's Lane, where he was attacked near the junction with Aldridge Road and received a number of stab injuries to his head and body.

The offender, described as black, aged around 19, 6ft 3in tall and wearing a dark hoodie and jeans, then ran off.

The 17-year-old was taken to hospital where he was treated for his injuries before being discharged. Call 101.

Hearing postponed

A DISCIPLINARY hearing into misconduct allegations against Sandwell Council's former deputy leader has been delayed. Oldbury councillor Mahboob Hussain was due to face the authority's standards committee this week. It will now take place after October 9.

Pupils are sent home in 'wrong shoes' row

CHILDREN were sent home on their first day back at school – for wearing incorrect footwear.

RSA Academy in Tipton sent letters out to parents over the summer regarding attendance and standards. Bosses said all students must wear formal, polishable shoes.

But on the first day of the new term, the school said a 'small minority' of students were turned away over footwear.

Principal Daulton Redmond said: "All students are expected to wear the correct uniform in order to maintain the highest of standards.

"Our uniform has been agreed through our parent council. Before the summer holidays we held assemblies with students and contacted parents by letter, text, social media and our website to ensure that they were clear about expectations.

"Over the break we answered a number of queries from parents, clarifying the uniform code."

Parent Donna Arnold said her 15-year-old son was among around 50 pupils sent home from their first day in Year 11.

She said: "I was never contacted by letter about trainers not being allowed. My view is wearing lace up polished shoes won't make our kids come out with all A grades.

"It makes me angry, my son always looks smart."

New warehouse as business grows

POUNDLAND founder Steve Smith's expanding new online business has snapped up a 21,000 sq ft warehouse in the Black Country – just down the road from the £1-for-everything retail outlet he started in Willenhall in 1990.

Steve and his father sold the business 10 years later for £50 million and the entrepreneur has gone on to invest in a string of new business ventures. Now, he and his son Ashley are backing an online retail business called Poundshop.com, based in Exeter.

The company launched in 2014 and has now taken on a warehouse on the Parkway Industrial Estate, Wednesbury. A 10-year lease has been signed on the 21,463 sq ft unit.

Stall rents to fall

RENTS could be reduced for traders at West Bromwich Indoor Market Hall by 25 per cent. Sandwell's cabinet is being recommended to approve the reduced rent at a meeting on September 20.

Maya award inspired by Diana's legacy

Maya with Princes Harry and William

AN engineering student from Sandwell College has won a national award inspired by the late Princess Diana.

Maya Ghazal was chosen from thousands of young people to win an inaugural Diana Legacy Award. It was presented to her at St James' Palace by Princes William and Harry.

Eighteen-year-old Maya was inspired to help countless refugees like herself by sharing her story as an inspirational volunteer speaker and ambassador for The Children's Society.

Two years ago she arrived in the UK from Syria, friendless, lonely and homesick, speaking no English, and just aiming to start a new life with her family.

Now, having been supported to settle in the UK by The Children's Society, she speaks in churches around the country – and in the media.

Maya will soon be off to Brunel University London as a result of her academic success at Sandwell College.

Her award marks 20 years since Princess Diana's death and highlights the achievements of exceptional young people from across the world for their selfless commitment to transforming the lives of others.

Maya said: "It feels such an honour to win the Diana Legacy Award for transforming the lives of others.

"When I first arrived in England I really wanted to start a new life but could never have imagined coming so far and winning an award like this."

Chief Executive for The Children's Society, Matthew Reed, said: "Maya is an inspiration to us all and we are delighted she has received such prestigious recognition from the Diana Legacy Awards."

£27m made from sale of council-owned land

SANDWELL Council has raked in more than £27 million from selling off 600 plots of land it owned.

In the past five years, the authority has sold off more than three times as much land as neighbouring Black Country authorities combined.

Council leader Councillor Steve Eling said: "We are making great strides in bringing new developments of housing and business to Sandwell, removing often eyesore plots of derelict land and raising money to pay for capital improvements like roads, housing, leisure centres and parks.

"Selling surplus council land provides sites for much-needed homes and new businesses. This helps create jobs, boosts the local economy and also means the council no longer has to spend money maintaining these sites."

Land sold off by the council includes the former Fir Tree School, in Yew Tree Estate, West Bromwich, land off High Street in Cradley Heath and land in Popes Lane, Oldbury.

Jobs

A £27 million Steel & Alloy Processing factory will be built in Popes Lane, creating 50 jobs. The figures were revealed following a Freedom Of Information request. A total of 598 plots of land have been sold since April 2012, generating £27,233,798. On average, each piece of land was sold for £45,541.

In Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton combined, 166 plots were sold for £36,544,457, with an average of £220,147 made from each land sale. Between April 2015 and May 2016 alone, Sandwell Council sold off 196 plots of land for £6.2m.

In 2014/15, 151 plots were sold for £4.9m. In other years, a total of 80 plots were sold off in 2012/2013, generating £6.5m for the council. Some 99 plots were sold off in 2013/14 earning the council £4.9m. In 2016/17, 72 plots were sold off for £4.5m.

Dudley Council made £8,311,289 from selling off 42 plots of land over the past five years, an average of £197,887 per plot.

In Walsall, 41 plots were sold generating £6,983,937 with an average of £170,399.

Bearing up for end of sleuth trail

The West Brom bear, Picnic Time for Teddy Bears, has proved a popular attraction

CHILDREN across Sandwell are being encouraged to mark National Teddy Bear Day on Saturday with a final visit to The Big Sleuth trail.

Picnic Time for Teddy Bears, located outside Central Sixth in West Bromwich town centre, is one of 100 giant bear sculptures forming a trail in streets, parks and open spaces across the West Midlands and is sponsored by the West Brom building society.

The Big Sleuth is designed to raise money for Birmingham's Children Hospital Charity.

There are six bears to see in Sandwell at locations including Sandwell Park Farm, Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods.

Nick Trueman, PR manager for the West Brom, said: "The initiative has really captured the imagination of the public."

Elinor Eustace, deputy director of fundraising at Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity, said: "We're looking forward to our farewell weekend and The Big Sleuth Auction."

NEWS IN BRIEF

MP warns of tax dodgers' haven

GOVERNMENT attempts to close tax loopholes could result in the opening of more 'havens for tax dodgers', a Black Country MP has warned.

Warley MP John Spellar says proposals in the upcoming finance bill aimed at tackling tax avoidance do not go far enough. The Labour MP warned the measures will fail to bring an end to 'the era of government turning a blind eye to the scandal of tax avoidance'.

"By allowing the super-wealthy tax dodgers to operate, the Tories ensure that billions of pounds, dollars and euros are lost to the public finances," Mr Spellar said.

Reward offer after attack outside pub

A MAN was left with a triple jaw fracture after an attack outside a Great Barr pub.

Police have put up a £1,000 reward following the assault outside the Old Horns, at the crossroads of Beacon Road and Aldridge Road, and close to Asda, on July 26.

The 37-year-old victim needed emergency hospital treatment following the incident at around 10.45pm. He took himself to hospital before reporting the incident to police.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Football to tackle weighty issues

A FREE football league aimed at helping men to lose weight is launching in Sandwell. The six-a-side league will be launched on October 13 at the RSA Academy in Tipton.

Men will be weighed before each match to track their progression. Each half will be 14 minutes long with a two-minute half-time rest. The game will played with roll on substitutes, meaning everyone will get a chance to play.

Men must have a body mass index of 27.5 and over to join. Call 0845 163 0042 or email football@manvfat.com

Christmas tree festival details are announced

ORGANISERS of a popular Christmas Tree festival at Wesley Methodist Church, West Bromwich, have announced details of this year's event.

It will run from 11am to 5pm on December 9 and from midday to 1pm and from 5pm until 6.15pm on December 10.

Admission is free but donations will be welcomed and will go to the church

Last year, more than £1,600 was raised and 25 trees decorated.

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COUNTY NEWS

Drive to get more men in social work

COUNCIL chiefs in Birmingham have backed a campaign to attract more men into social work.

Currently the child protection workforce is predominantly female, with only 14 per cent of roles taken up by men, whilst more than half of the children in care are boys.

The drive has been launched by social work charity Frontline, backed by Birmingham City Council – with 15.5 per cent of male social workers in children's services. Councillor Brigid Jones said: "As Ofsted confirmed earlier this year, we are now making steady progress in improving services for children."

Trust fun events for the autumn

THE National Trust has announced a series of events taking place in the West Midlands this autumn.

Between October 21 and October 31 Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wolverhampton, will host Family Halloween Half Term Fun.

At Kinver Edge on October 23 there will be apple-pressing and hands-on crafts at the Trust's Rock Houses.

And on October 24 and 26 the same site will host lantern-making sessions.

Finally there will be a Pumpkin Festival at Moseley Old Hall from October 23 to October 29 where people can carve pumpkins and take the insides home.

Team in nursing recruitment task

A BLACK Country hospital team has visited Liverpool in a bid to recruit more nurses. The RCN nursing recruitment event took place at the Exhibition Centre.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust met with potential candidates from across the country. The trust, which runs City, Sandwell and Rowley Regis Hospitals, as well as Leasowes Intermediate Care Centre, was on the lookout to recruit qualified nurses.

£6k raised for causes by Blakemore staff

STAFF from Blakemore Foodservice's Darlaston depot have handed over £6,000 to their two charities of the year for 2016-2017.

They selected the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity and Chelsea's HLH Awareness Fund and have taken part in a number of activities over the 12 months to raise funds, including the recent Wolverhampton Half Marathon.

Former steelworks on market at £1.2m

AN eyesore former steelworks site has been put up for sale for more than £1 million.

The Corus warehouse in Tipton has stood derelict for more than 10 years, but Bearwood-based property specialists Royal Estates say the site is ideal for a housing development.

In 2003 the plant closed with the loss of more than 100 jobs. Royal Estates says the freehold site has been on the market for £1,200,000 for around eight weeks.

Director Indy Dubb said: "It is in a really good area with mixed housing and industrial units. It is a 1.6 acre spot which is a really good size for the site and would be great for a housing development. That would be a good option for the site as it has stood vacant for more than 10 years.

"Some form of development there would be really beneficial for the area. We have had the site up for sale for about eight weeks now and it has attracted attention. It is sad when buildings get left like this but hopefully it can have a brighter future when sold to the right people."

There are first floor offices and a yard area providing parking for several vehicles.

When the Corus plant closed in 2003 the firm had 26,000 workers nationwide, with more than 2,000 employed across the region.

At the time, council bosses in Sandwell urged officials to reconsider the job cuts in hope they could be avoided. A total of 305 were employed at the borough's three steel processing sites with 85 at West Bromwich Street, Oldbury, 115 at Bloomfield Road and 105 in Barnfield Road, Tipton.

New life after sale of iconic ceramics factory

By Clare Butler

A FORMER landmark ceramics factory could be given a new lease of life after standing derelict for more than 10 years.

The Roman Mosaic site, on Bloomfield Road in Tipton, has been targeted by arsonists and left with broken windows, fly-tipping and graffiti.

It was put on the market for more than half a million pounds last year and a sale has now been confirmed. The factory, which is recognised by its notable chimney with 'Roman' written on it, also has a unique tile mosaic of a Black Country canal scene on the corner of the premises – which is hoped will be preserved.

Chairman of Tipton Civic Society, Keith Hodgkins, said the site could be turned into office space. He said: "I have heard that the site has been bought and could be turned into offices, but no plans have been put forward yet.

"It has looked a mess for some time now so to see something done with it will be great.

"There is also an initiative by Tipton Community Association to get the mosaics preserved.

Fashion

"They have been in contact with the new owners and they have kindly said that they can have it and the plan is to re-erect it at the Brook Street Community Centre. It is a shame that its been left the way it has for so long as ceramics used to be really in fashion at one time."

In 1997 former West Bromwich MP and House of Commons speaker, Baroness Betty Boothroyd, unveiled the canal mosaic artwork tile along with the factory bosses.

They had moved to the Bloomfield Road site in the mid-1980s having previously been based in Burnt Tree island, Dudley. Councillor Ian Jones, who represents the Tipton Green Ward, said: "Hopefully we will see some good plans come forward for the site.

"It has been left derelict for some years now. It is in a prime location so we are all really pleased that something will be done with it."

In the 1960s the factory was renowned for importing and distributing ceramic tiles and glass mosaics and terrazzo manufacturers.

Over the past five years a spate of vandal attacks have also blighted the premises.

The canal mosaic artwork on the side of the Roman Mosaic site in Tipton

Empty old homes could be demolished

TWO empty old houses in Tividale could be razed to make way for new properties as part of Sandwell Council's drive for more council homes.

Sandwell Council's land and asset management committee will today (Thursday), consider plans to demolish two adjoining houses at the junction of Longbank Road and Ashleigh Road.

The authority would then carry out a study to see if it's cost effective to build council homes for rent on the site. The semi-detached homes set for demolition became vacant and unlettable after becoming structurally unsound.

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for regeneration and economic investment, said the site could be suitable to add to the 635 new council homes already being built across Sandwell.

If the site is not suitable for building council homes, the land would be sold on the open market. If the demolition proposal is agreed, it will go to cabinet on September 20 for consideration.

Driver who hit pair on crossing is sent to jail

A SPEEDING motorist who struck two pedestrians, seriously injuring both, has been jailed for two years.

Stuart Knowles, aged 49 and Sharon Homer, 54, were both hurled more than 50ft by the Astra driven by 22-year-old Ahsa Mehmood.

The motorist from Quarry Bank did not stop immediately although he did return soon after to give his details to police at the scene, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Mehmood

Experts estimated from CCTV that Pizza Hut manager Mehmood was doing 50mph in a 30 zone before the collision and between 27 and 34 mph as the Astra hit the pair. Mr Gareth Walters, prosecuting, said the traffic light controlling the crossing was in favour of oncoming traffic when the pedestrians tried to cross Rowley Regis High Street just after midnight on New Year's Eve.

The defendant braked when he saw them but stopped slowing down, thinking he could get past without hitting them. The pair were more than halfway across when they saw the speeding Astra and tried to get out of the way.

Mr Knowles received multiple skull fractures, spinal injuries and a broken leg. Miss Homer had a broken pelvis and fractures to a rib and vertebrae.

Mehmood from Coppice Lane, who had not been drinking and was of previous good character, pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving. He is banned from driving for two years on release.

Venue takes on lease of car park

A FORMER pay and display car park in Old Hill could be leased out to an entertainment venue, under plans.

Sandwell Council is set to lease the car park to The Regis conference and banqueting suite.

The council's land and asset management committee, which meets today (Thursday), is recommended to authorise a 25-year lease of the car park in Haden Road.

The council's cabinet agreed in 2015 that the authority no longer needed the car park.

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for regeneration and economic investment, said: "Although it's not financially viable for the council to keep this car park open, this proposal would allow The Regis to provide parking for customers, which helps to support a local business."

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BRANCHES AT
WEST BROMWICH - PERRY BARR - HANDSWORTH

Pioneering service for motherhood is launched

A PILOT service has been launched providing advice and support to pregnant women and new mothers in Sandwell.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH) has been commissioned by Sandwell Council to deliver the Best Start Programme. It will aim to help women who are pregnant with their physical and emotional health, as well as those in their first year of motherhood.

They will receive practical tips on their parenting skills, and advice on how to strengthen relationships with close family and friends, including their baby, which in turn will ensure that their child will achieve their full potential. Women taking part will be offered six home visits in the antenatal period and 12 home visits from birth to one year. In certain circumstances the Best Start Programme can continue until the child's second birthday.

Kerris Percival, Best Start Programme manager, said: "Our objectives are to improve perinatal mortality statistics in our area, reduce A&E attendances and improve school readiness. This is the first programme of its kind in the country, so we consider ourselves pioneers."

Sadie Sutton, Best Start Practitioner, said: "It is a very valuable role to be helping those in need in our communities."

Train operators extend club link

TRAIN operator London Midland has extended its partnership with West Bromwich Albion.

The company currently sponsors the club's community project, The Albion Foundation, and has now agreed to sponsor Albion's women's and girls' teams along with the club's basketball teams.

London Midland's commercial director, Richard Brooks, said: "By working with the Albion Foundation, we have a great opportunity to support our local communities through the work they do. There is a real enthusiasm across the business for the foundation's work and the continued partnership means that even more people can get involved and show that they care."

Ex-player pitches in

FORMER Aston Villa and England player Darius Vassell will be at the opening of a new 3G artificial pitch in Birmingham. The facility will open at Newman University Birmingham, in Genners Lane, on September 20.

In tune for 52 city performances

The band plays at Edgbaston

MUSICIANS went two and a half days without sleep to complete 52 performances in 62 hours – smashing their £4,000 target.

Halesowen pair Mark Sharman and Nicola Redhead were among the quintet, along with Stafford Grammar School's director of music Gavin Lamplough and Staffordshire duo Darren Selby of Great Wyrley's and Tamworth-based Andrew Dickinson.

They collected £5,100 for Cancer Research UK after travelling more than 2,000 miles to play in every English city for 10 minutes. They played in Birmingham twice, after starting and ending in the Second City, making 52 cities in all, including Bristol, York, Truro, Norwich, Portsmouth and Carlisle.

Mr Lamplough said: "It was brutal. We never thought it would be so tough. We were literally going nonstop for three days to keep to our schedule and hit the target. But the generosity of people along the way was really humbling."

The members of Salvation Army's Birmingham Citadel Band graced the likes of Wembley and The Oval with their trumpets, trombone, horn and tuba. They also visited Edgbaston Cricket Ground, Wolves' Molineux football ground and Lichfield Rugby Club.

The Match of the Day, Grandstand and Test Match Special tunes were included in their repertoire, along with hymns and anthems linked with particular cities, clubs or sports.

Five years ago the band visited all 92 English league football grounds and raised £8,000 for Cancer Research UK. Donations can be still be made at justgiving.com/bcb-52in52

Beer-bellied distraction burglar sent to prison

A BURGLAR who posed as a policeman as he targeted nine victims as old as 91 has been jailed for more than nine years.

John Casey stole from pensioners in Sandwell, Birmingham, Coventry, and other parts of the country.

He would also pose as a water board or council worker, and on August 4 last year, he targeted a 75 year-old woman in Smethwick.

Casey claimed he was there to fix the boiler but took a bag containing £60.

Police described him as 'cruel and calculated', as they revealed how the 52-year-old was finally caught.

Victims regularly referred to the conman as 'beer-bellied', and police established that the same thief was using a silver Rover 45 in different crimes. They traced it to Casey, and he was arrested in July. He gave no comment in police interview, but pleaded guilty after being confronted with CCTV and DNA evidence.

Casey also admitted kidnap and attempted robbery after he took a man in his 70s to a cash point in Ealing, London, to draw out money.

Grab

The victim became suspicious and fought back when he tried to grab the money, and Casey fled with nothing.

Casey, of Heathside Drive, Kings Norton, admitted nine burglaries – between 2013 and April this year – worth a total of more than £1,800. On Monday, he was sentenced to nine years and three months at Birmingham Crown Court.

DC Kate Watts, from West Midlands CID, said: "This was cruel and calculated deception which targeted vulnerable people. They allowed him into their homes believing he was someone they could trust; but he took advantage of this for his own financial gain.

"We always encourage people to check for identification if somebody knocks on the door to say they're on official business. Check it carefully and phone the organisation they claim to be from. Get a number from the phone book or online – don't use any number they provide on a card."

Cup runneth over into lasting love

Diamond wedding couple Derek and Audrey Parker, of West Bromwich

IT was a day to remember for Audrey Parker. She had watched her beloved West Bromwich Albion carry the FA Cup through town following victory over Preston North End.

Then she met her husband-to-be, Derek Parker, while walking back to her house with a friend.

That was 63 years ago, and now the couple, of West Bromwich, are celebrating their diamond anniversary, marking the occasion with a family meal. Derek was born in West Bromwich and attended Spon Lane School before leaving at 15 to work as a driver's mate. After returning from National Service in Egypt, he met Audrey as he cycled past her and a friend.

Audrey attended All Saints School in West Bromwich before also leaving aged 15 to work as a printer. They tied the knot at All End Methodist Church.

Derek went on to work as a coach driver. The couple have a daughter, Gail, aged 51, and two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

On their wedding day

NEWS IN BRIEF

Call to get men into social work

COUNCIL chiefs in Birmingham have backed a campaign to attract more men into social work. It has been launched by social work charity Frontline.

Birmingham City Council – which has 15.5 per cent of male social workers in children's services – is supporting the campaign.

Councillor Brigid Jones, cabinet member for children, families and schools, said: "Frontline will help provide high quality development for aspiring social workers and leaders who want to make a difference to those in need and I would particularly encourage male graduates to apply."

New course to support carers

A NEW course aims to support carers by helping them 'gain confidence and improve their own health and wellbeing'.

Sandwell Council is piloting the course with Sandwell College designed to support newly identified carers.

Free sessions provided by public health officers will be held at the college's West Bromwich campus later this month.

The bespoke course will be run over five sessions on a part-time basis.

Email suni_patel@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 5172 for more details.

Charity handed £5,000 donation

A WEST Midlands charity has received a £5,000 donation from the Morrisons Foundation.

The Disability Resource Centre, in Birmingham, will celebrate its 25th anniversary next month.

Lee Smith from the Morrisons store in Edgbaston said: "We were delighted to present this cheque to a local charity that is delivering fantastic work across Birmingham."

Tracy Mash from the Disability Resource Centre said: "This donation will enable us to help even more people with disabilities."

End bin strike as soon as possible, pleads MP

AN MP has urged Birmingham's councillors and unions to bring a halt to the ongoing bin strike as soon as possible.

Jack Dromey, for Birmingham Erdington, has said the 10 weeks of industrial action has gone on too long.

And he wants a resolution in 'days not weeks'.

Mr Dromey said: "I am urging all parties in this dispute to give top priority to sort this."

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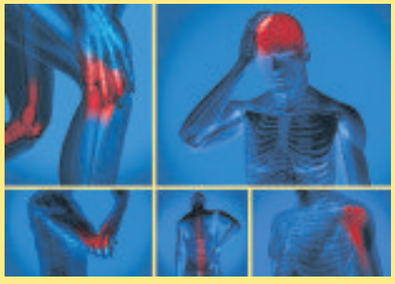

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Rubbish system of these bin police

SOME things restore your faith in our public services, while others just leave you tearing your hair out.

On Saturday, I called in at my public library bang on 4pm, just as the doors were being locked. "Sorry, we're closed," said the librarian, which was fair enough. While it seems absurd that libraries now shut in mid afternoon, I knew the opening times, and had left it too late.

However, when I politely asked if I could return my books, she reluctantly relented, and I was out at 4.01pm. Nobody was really inconvenienced, and I went away with a higher opinion of the staff.

Now compare this with the "binspectors", who appear to be making a comeback across the region. Two local councils in the West Midlands recently announced they are employing folk to prod around our dustbins to see what is inside. Some people have reportedly been sent the characteristically pompous letters, in their trademark John Prescott grammar and pseudo-legalistic gobbledegook, threatening residents with fines of up to £2,500 and criminal records should they persist putting their rubbish in the wrong container.

These two stories show a marked contrast between the different attitudes which exist in local government. In the first instance, the librarian recognised that public service meant serving the public, in other words giving the punters what they want.

On the other hand, the "binspectors" – they hate that term by the way – and moreover, their employers, believe their role involves telling us what to do, or "changing attitudes and perceptions".

They are wrong. The council's job is to empty the bins. Not tell us how to use them.

❒❒❒

AFTER losing a bet, Birmingham City fan Joe Lombardi agreed to have a picture of Harry Redknapp leaning out of his car window tattooed on his ankle.

I've never really got the appeal of tattoos. If I'm going to allow my body to be used as an art gallery or advertising hoarding, the least I expect is for the exhibitors to pay for the space. Indeed, it could be a nice little earner, selling parts of your body for commercial sponsorship. I'm sure if the price is right, I can be persuaded to have Bill's Pizza or Acme Double glazing etched onto my bum.

But given that Blues are on their third manager in nine months, you can't help but think Joe will regret his decision sooner rather than later.

Wouldn't you just love to see Joe's face if Harry crossed the city to Aston Villa?

New warning of ballistic missiles getting closer

Florence Parly – warning over North Korea and building of ballistic missiles

Kate Middleton – expect lots of coverage as baby number three is on the way

Jeremy Corbyn talks proudly of defending "the right to a nomadic way of life."

Another good reason to get out of Europe

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE French defence minister, Florence Parly, warns that North Korea may be closer than anyone thought to building ballistic missiles capable of hitting Europe. Another good reason to be leaving.

HOW justice works. On the day this week that local councils unveiled plans to slap £2,500 fines on householders who overload their wheelie bins, the Ministry of Justice revealed that 437 people who admitted crimes including blackmail, kidnap, rape and child abuse have been let off with a caution. Surprised? Nah, me neither.

I SWITCHED on Call You and Yours (Radio 4) to hear a particularly nauseating example of that dreadful modern language we might call social workerese. A caller, close to tears, described how her family had been shattered by the sudden death of a little child. The interviewer replied: "It must change the family dynamic." Ye gods and little fishes.

ANOTHER family dynamic is being changed. "We just can't wait to meet baby number three!" gushes the Daily Mail as Kate and William announce another pregnancy. Who might this "we" be? Even those of us who support a constitutional monarchy have had quite enough from the Windsor photo-opportunity factory for one year, thanks. On top of Prince Philip's retirement, Princess Di memories and wall-to-wall coverage of Harry and his girl, endless dissection of Kate's progress will give us all morning sickness.

ACCORDING to the latest British Social Attitudes Survey, for the first time ever more than half of adult Brits claim to follow no faith. Hallelujah. Losing our religions may be one of the main benefits of a multicultural society. There was a time when we all believed that kindness and charity flowed from the assortment of gods, prophets, saints and holy men we chose to worship. But in today's Britain we see people helping at disasters and being inspired not by Bronze Age superstitions but by common human decency. It is a sobering moment the first time a religious person sees an atheist putting his or her life on the line for others. To do good in the belief that you will be rewarded in heaven is fine. But doing good for its own sake,with no expectation of harps, angels and eternity, has got to be better. Religion divides, humanity unites.

AND off to the optician for a new treatment. This involves a tiny vibrator which is run along the rims of your eyelids, tickling your lashes and scattering the accumulated crud and eye-mites of many years. Ordeal by eyelid-tickler feels exactly as it sounds and if you don't squirm like a serpent and laugh like a drain throughout, then your giggle buttons probably need adjusting. It reminded me of that unfortunate incident at the dentist's as a small boy (when I was a small boy, that is, not the dentist). He was running the high-pressure water jet around my molars when he suddenly touched one end of a nerve which ran deep into the body. I instantly wet myself. I don't recall anybody laughing.

FROM time to time things go terribly wrong. An airliner crashes. A block of flats goes up in flames. Girls are sexually abused by organised gangs. And then, after the initial shock, it is revealed that everyone knew there was a problem all along but everyone chose to look the other way. It's only after the event that we raise our hands in horror and demand to know why, when all was known, nothing was done. And if you want to see a new national scandal brewing, look no further than Gypsy Kids: Our Secret World (C5) where we meet children of nine and 13 who have never been to school and whose parents, being semi-literate, cannot possibly educate them.

THE problems caused by travellers are usually reported in terms of caravan invasions, intimidation, crime and the filth left behind. But this series is a reminder that parts of the Traveller community are not only troublesome but deeply troubled.

IF you take your kids out of school for a few days in term time, the education authorities may well impose a steep fine or take you to court. Yet the non-attendance at school by thousands of traveller children is simply ignored. All politicians talk about the importance of education, freedom and the right to choose a better future. But on this issue, with generation after generation trapped in a no-hope web of illiteracy, those same politicians choose to look the other way and ignore child-neglect on a massive scale. Sometimes politicians even romanticise it. Jeremy Corbyn talks proudly of defending "the right to a nomadic way of life." What about the right of these traveller kids to choose another sort of life?

TALKING POINT

Loyalty to fat cats is costing our grannies

HOW would you feel if you heard that someone had ripped off your granny for £500? Then you found out that they had been dipping into her finances on an annual basis.

We are not talking about an opportunist purse thief or even some doorstep con artist. This is happening perfectly legally... and it's a disgrace.

The culprits? The insurance industry. The fat cats who run this multi-billion pound industry know full well that many of their elderly loyal customers don't know their iPad from their elbow.

Apologies to the savvy silver surfers, but in an ageing society where many live into their 80s, 90s or even long enough to get a letter from the Queen, there are thousands of elderly people who never go online.

They don't own a computer and probably don't want to. It is difficult to tap away at a keyboard with arthritic fingers or peer at a screen when your eyesight is not what it was.

Many of these people belong to a generation when it was considered shameful to owe money or to even be late paying a bill. How times change.

But this means that they often fall foul of the automatic renewal, when the insurance company offers you another year of 'the same great cover' without any bother. Avoiding the 'bother' can prove costly, especially as loyalty appears to be a one-way street when it comes to the insurers.

Year on year those buildings and contents premiums increase. A person who set up a direct debit years ago could easily be paying £500 over the average deal available elsewhere.

Back in 2013, The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) admitted automatic renewal leads to customers being treated unfairly. But still it goes on.

New rules introduced this year have forced insurers to tell buyers at the renewal stage what their premium was the year before. The FCA say that measure alone should save consumers more than £100m, by alerting them to the scale of the premium increase.

But this will not alert everyone to how much less they could be paying for the same cover elsewhere.

The elderly are probably the worst hit group but any loyal customer who doesn't make price comparisons can be preyed on in this way. It is time our MPs took on the insurance industry to end this cynical exploitation.

Check your policy, particularly if you pay by direct debit and, if you have elderly relatives or friends, check their policy too.

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Decent people are no longer valued

AFTER having chats with friends and neighbours, we have reached the conclusion that decent honest people are no longer valued in this country.

Decisions are being made by the new rich on things which no-one really wants except the powerful lobby.

For example, HS2.

Who is this being built for, not the ordinary folk who won't be able to afford to travel on it any way, destroying a lot of what is left in this country, disrupting many and forcing people to move from homes they may have worked hard for all their lives. This is apart from the ruination of flora and fauna which the scheme will bring.

None of these projects is ever delivered on time or on budget.

Tower blocks being designed and built with only one staircase in case of emergency, what good is this?

Criminals getting the soft treatment as a result of their crimes.

For example driving while disqualified with no insurance and killing an innocent person with a vehicle.

Surely this should be murder as a motor vehicle in the wrong hands is a lethal weapon. A few years disqualification is just laughable, as most of these people will no doubt do the same thing again because of the leniency given them.

Is it not also about time that cyclists should be insured as a matter of course?

As a disabled person, my scooters are both insured. I could go on but I am sure that you get my drift.

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Please back the British inventors

WHEN are the British people going to get a government that looks after our inventors?

This country has the finest creative minds in the world. Do the inventors get any backing? No! Do the people get any of the benefits of their inventions? No – the countries around the world get the benefits.

The high speed train in Japan runs on an invention first tried out in a garden shed in the Midlands many years ago.If it had been funded by the government of the day this country would have had its high speed train instead of this outdated HS2.

There are many many more that countries around the world have snapped up at the expense of the inventors and this country. Until this country gets a government that looks after its people instead of these outdated parties, the country will never prosper.

MR B LAWLEY
Bilston

Use BBC's big wages to pay off trillions

WE are the fifth richest country in the world they say – but we owe £1.73 trillion. Now my major concern is the payments to BBC staff. The salaries recently highlighted are ridiculous.

Makes you wonder why all these highly-paid women have complained about equal pay with men – I trust they want men's pay to be reduced to the women's. The reason they, all of them, are paid so extravagantly is because the BBC gets so much public money. My point is that this money is provided by taxpayers which in my view should go to the Chancellor of the Exchequer who could then divert it to the NHS and allow the BBC a more reasonable amount. There are plenty more TV stations so viewers won't go short.

W ROUND
Kingswinford

Anything to say on HS2 Gavin?

I DON'T suppose I am alone in wondering what planet Gavin Williamson is on.

First he pats himself on the back for the possible relocation of D X Freight from Essington, loss of jobs and revenue to the area.

What is it about Essington? Its only claim to fame – fruit farm and a boot sale.

Now he wades in with his support against further industrial development to create 8,500 jobs plus by 'Four Ashes Ltd' a proposal to create a rail/road freight hub – much-needed.

I do so hope Four Ashes are successful led by Peter Frost, oh, Peter as a former lorry driver please don't forget a good hard surface LGV park and good food and ancillary services for drivers.

Memo to Mr Williamson – what about the carnage caused by HS2, or have you been told to keep quiet about this white elephant?

MALCOLM SAXON
Tipton

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Stingers and DNA spray used to halt bikers peril

DNA spray, stingers, and the police helicopter are being used to tackle 'appallingly lawless' menace bikers.

West Midlands Chief Constable Dave Thompson said prosecutors were currently looking at bringing charges against 56 suspects.

The footage

Mass rideouts of dozens of motorcyclists and off-road bikers recklessly riding in housing estates have been terrifying parts of the region.

Riders have been spotted on the A34 Birmingham Road, in Great Barr, close to the junction for the M6.

Footage posted online showed group members pulling wheelies and riding through red lights.

Mr Thompson said: "This is some of the most appalling lawlessness that we witness.

"That is both in terms of the danger they pose to the public, the anti-social behaviour itself and the unwelcome phenomenon of the sharing of that behaviour on social media.

"It is something the force takes very seriously and I know the public have been left frustrated about the response."

Mr Thompson said injunctions had been taken out in Birmingham and Solihull and praised the work of firefighters in Sandwell.

He added: "We have started to use stinger devices, which are used against vehicles during pursuits, but we obviously have to think very carefully about how we use them against bikes."

Builders help couple out of very tight spot

After – the driveway has now been widened to enable the couple to park

Before – a tight squeeze for the couple

IT WAS a tight squeeze to say the least! But now a couple have breathed a sigh of relief after their tiny driveway was put right by builders.

Paul and Zena Jones found it almost impossible to get out of their cars because of how narrow the driveway of their new-build Great Barr home was.

But after taking their campaign to social media to highlight their concerns, developers found a compromise. And a wall to the neighbouring home has been moved away from the driveway.

"We can de-stress now," said Zena. "It has taken a long time to get here. We are just grateful for the support."

The couple voiced their frustrations after claiming their driveway only measured 89 inches – or 7ft 4ins – wide. This left them struggling to open the doors of their Ford Fiesta and Volkswagen to get out.

Paul, aged 34, set up his own Twitter page – @DeerParkNoDrive – in a bid to highlight concerns.

The couple bought the house, having seen designs, as part of a shared ownership agreement for £90,000 along with housing association Walsall Housing Group from developer Taylor Wimpey.

They moved into their home, in Deer Park Drive, in February this year. But when they first arrived on the day they received their keys they were shocked to find the narrow driveway.

"We pulled the car on and couldn't believe it. We couldn't get the door open," said Zena, aged 54. After the problems were highlighted through social media, contractors were called into see what could be done.

Paul tweeted out his thanks after the work was completed within two works of it starting.

A new pathway and resurfaced driveway was completed allowing more space for parking. A Taylor Wimpey spokesman said: "We are pleased that we have been able to resolve the issue to the customers' satisfaction."

Friend tells of struggles after crash

THE childhood friend of a woman killed by a speeding driver has told in a blog of her struggle to cope.

Rebecca McManus, 21, was killed at a bus stop by Sukvinder Mannan who was racing another driver at 100mph.

Harriet Barnsley spent weeks in a coma after the crash, on Hagley Road West on May 31, 2014.

Harriet Barnsley

In December 2015 Mannan, 34, of Roundhills Road, Halesowen, was jailed for eight years.

On her blog, titled 'This Too Shall Pass', Harriet, from Birmingham said she was not informed of Rebecca's death for weeks after the crash, writing: "I had a feeling that something was wrong, because she didn't visit me during the three months I spent in hospital.

"When my parents eventually told me, I didn't really understand. I don't remember any point at which the news sank in."

Rebecca's father Gerard McManus launched a campaign calling for drivers convicted of causing death by dangerous driving to be banned from the roads for life.

Brum is in top 10 cities to find job

BIRMINGHAM is one of the top 10 UK cities to find a job, according to data from jobs website CV-Library.

It found job numbers in the Second City rose by 27.3 per cent last month on August last year.

Bristol topped the table with a 45.3 per cent jump, while London does not even make the list.

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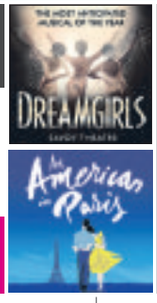

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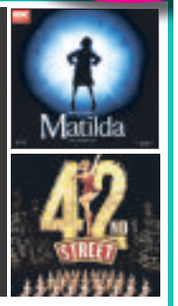

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Transforming lives for patients and families

SINCE opening its doors in April, the Heart of Sandwell Day Hospice has helped many palliative patients who have been given much-needed care and attention.

Based at Rowley Regis Hospital, the new facility works to improve the quality of life to those who visit and is currently open to patients from Monday to Wednesday.

Dedicated occupational therapist and care co-ordinator Claire Roach is one of those working at the facility, run by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, helping to transform lives.

Palliative care is a subject close to her heart, as 22 years ago, her daughter Amy died aged just two from a rare metabolic disorder called Tay-Sachs disease.

Since then, Claire knew that she wanted to work with end-of-life patients, and their families, helping them through a difficult time she knows only too well.

Important

"After Amy died, I always felt that I wanted to work in palliative care," said Claire. "I know what the families of people are going through as I have been there myself.

"I saw the advert for the job earlier this year and didn't hesitate in applying as I knew that was what I wanted to do."

Claire joined the Day Hospice in July and she says it has a very important role in the lives of the patients who visit.

"It is there to improve their quality of life and it is an opportunity for our patients to interact with people," she said. "But they can also take part in the many activities that we offer. These include lovely arts and crafts sessions, complementary therapy, fatigue/anxiety and breathlessness interventions and engaging in other meaningful activities.

"As well as all this, we offer them a hot dinner with a pudding as well. The feedback we have had so far has been excellent, in fact the only complaints we receive from patients is that they don't want to leave."

Currently, patients attend for a 12-week programme; to enable everyone who wishes to attend, the opportunity to come.

As well as socialising and taking part in various activities, patients also get to speak with a palliative care nurse, with whom they can discuss their care plans.

"Patients can also ask any questions they want to and seek advice," added Claire, who first worked for SWBH in 2010.

She left to pursue a job at another Trust, before returning to work at the day hospice.

So who would Claire class as her own hero? "I look up to any woman who is strong and independent. I was never confident before I lost Amy, but afterwards, her death gave me the confidence in myself to do anything I wanted to. And I admire any other women who can do this as well."

When Claire, who is also mum to Alex, 15, isn't working at the hospice, she is busy running – and is training for the Birmingham Marathon next month, raising money for Acorns Hospice, where Amy spent time, and for the day hospice.

"I'm proud to support them."

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs. Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations.

It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally.

Last year, the trust provides care from 150 locations.

This week we highlight:
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Occupational therapist and care co-ordinator

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Fitness centre's healthy £120,000 investment

SANDWELL Leisure Trust's Smethwick Swimming Centre has benefited from a £120,000 investment to upgrade the fitness equipment and uplift its gym area.

New cardio products have been installed at the Thimblemill Road facility including an IC7 spin bike, Cybex Sparc trainer for fat loss and strength building and Concept 2 Ski Erg (based on Nordic skiing) – all of which are a first for the West Midlands.

New equipment from the premium LifeFitness Elevation range is also available, which features the latest 'Discover Cardio' consoles offering touch screen console technology for TV and app compatibility. These track progress, access personalised workouts and serve as an in-workout display.

Targets

Lynda Bateman, chairman of Sandwell Leisure Trust Board, said: "We are committed to investing to provide an excellent range of quality fitness facilities at Sandwell's sport and leisure centres for all our members and local residents to enjoy, keeping them healthy and helping them achieve personal targets and goals."

Councillor Richard Marshall, cabinet member for leisure, added: "We are delighted to work in partnership with SLT and to see the continued investment here in Smethwick paying dividends.

"Sandwell Council has made significant investment in new sport and leisure facilities in Sandwell and we work hard with all our partners to find new ways to get more people active in the borough."

Lynda Bateman and Richard Marshall with gym member Suki Kang

The initial investment also included a brand new sauna, new floors, toilets and showers. It was delivered in partnership with Sven Saunas Ltd.

An additional £50,000 was spent on transforming a previously under-utilised meeting room into a new state-of-the-art spin studio.

SSC manager Sean Ryan said: "We're very keen to offer members more variety and scope and spin classes were certainly in demand, but with literally no further space to utilise in the studio we decided to overhaul the meetings room that was only used for internal gatherings and an occasional member of the public hire."

Next up is a £5,000 facelift spend on the popular dance studio – resulting in a total spend at the centre of £175,000.

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Isabel's a wheel blast in 200-mile challenge

Isabel Holt, aged eight, who carried out a 200-mile ride for St Giles Hospice and Birmingham Children's Hospital

AN eight-year-old girl has cycled 200 miles to raise money for charity.

Isabel Holt planned the fundraising cycle in aid of St Giles Hospice and Birmingham Children's Hospital. She has already cycled 123 miles this summer and completed the final miles on Sunday at Cycle St Giles, the biggest cycle event at the hospice.

The schoolgirl said: "Last weekend I did a mini mud challenge and a couple of weeks before I completed a mini triathlon. I'm really excited to complete my challenge and raise lots of money for charity."

Isabel's mother Nicola Holt, will also be taking to the saddle to help raise money for St Giles.

Isabel expects to top her £500 target which will be split between Birmingham Children's Hospital where Nicola works and St Giles Hospice which has cared for a number of their relatives.

Art-loving youngsters take part in exhibition

ARTWORK made by children in Wednesbury will go on show at a prestigious museum in the Midlands.

The art from youngsters who attend BLAST youth club will go on show at the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham, which displays pieces from leading artists – as part of a project working alongside the museum and the Sidney Nolan Trust.

By Jamie Brassington

Councillor Danny Millard, youth champion at Sandwell Council, said: "As a youth worker I know how important it is to offer young people a variety of activities to take part in.

"I was so proud of the young people and they really were a credit to themselves and to Sandwell. It really goes to show what our young people can do and what they are capable of."

The exhibition is part of a summer long programme dedicated to Sir Sidney Nolan to celebrate the work and legacy of the artist and to mark the centenary of his birth. He was one of Australia's leading artists in the 20th century.

The Trust was set up in 1985 to build a centre to house his artwork and show his music in rural Wales.

Artwork from the group was on display over the first weekend in September.

Ikon Gallery plan to work with young people in Sandwell in the future as part of their ongoing youth programme with local budding artists.

Workshops took place at various locations including the Ikon Gallery's Slow Boat which has been on loan to them from Sandwell Council for the past three years.

BLAST Youth Club, based on Wood Green Road runs sessions for young people 6pm to 8pm every Wednesday. For more details email: youngpeople_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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Affordable funerals service reaches 100th

A SERVICE giving bereaved Sandwell families the option of an affordable funeral has recorded its 100th low cost funeral less than a year since launching.

Sandwell Council established the service last October to help address funeral poverty and help families who cannot afford funeral costs which run into many thousands of pounds.

Under the scheme the full cost of a simple, dignified cremation at Sandwell Valley and Rowley Regis crematoriums is £1,595.

It includes a coffin, a funeral service with a minister, all crematorium and doctors' fees and music of the family's choice.

The service is run by the council and local funeral directors Trinity Funeral Services Limited. Councillor Syeda Khatun, deputy leader, said: "Covering the cost of a funeral is a very real worry for many people.

Perfectly

"According to the Funeral Poverty Alliance (FPA), the cost of funerals has risen 90 per cent in a decade. Their figures show funeral poverty, where people are simply unable to pay for their loved one's funeral, has increased by 50 per cent in the past three years. In response to this our bereavement services working with Trinity Funeral Services Ltd set up a dignified solution."

And she added staff had letters thanking them for help, one family wrote: "Thank you for organising mum's funeral, you have taken the stress out of an upsetting time. Everything went perfectly."

Families having to organise a funeral are reminded to obtain quotations from a number of funeral directors before going ahead.

For details on the Sandwell Funeral Service go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/lowcostfunerals. Call Bereavement Services on 0121 569 6700 or email bereavement_services@sandwell.gov.uk

Rubie's a gem for cause

Rubie Killian, aged 11, who has a condition called duplex kidneys

AN 11-year-old has become the 2,000th patient to help towards a project that is looking to transform the diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases and cancer.

Rubie Killian, from Beechdale, who has been cared for by Birmingham Children hospital over the last three years, has a condition called duplex kidneys – meaning she has two ureters, a tube that drains urine into the bladder, coming from a single kidney, rather than one which is usual.

The Bloxwich Academy student became the latest young person to take part in the national 100k Genomes Project last month. Since its launch two years ago the Children's Hospital, part of Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust, has been a keen supporter of the project that aim's to make the UK a frontrunner in incorporating potentially life saving equipment into the mainstream health system.

Mum Nichola, aged 35, said: "We were happy for Rubie to get involved in the project because without people like her taking part, it would be impossible to find answers and learn more about why these conditions happen."

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SCOTTISHPOWER

There is further reason to celebrate after receiving an excellent set of GCSE and A-level outcomes

Celebrating outstanding rating

Commercial feature

Sandwell Academy is celebrating once again after being graded as 'Outstanding' in their most recent Ofsted inspection.

This is the third time in a row the Academy has achieved Ofsted's highest rating of 'Outstanding'. The Academy has now been rated as outstanding for six years after first achieving this in 2011, again in 2014 and now in 2017.

The results from the most recent inspection highlight the consistent level of excellence that the Academy delivers in all areas.

The staff, students, parents and governors are delighted to receive another glowing report acknowledging the quality of educational provision on offer.

There is further reason to celebrate after receiving an excellent set of GCSE outcomes from Year 11 students and fantastic A-level outcomes from sixth form students. Some 85 per cent of all GCSE results were graded A*-C (4) across a range of subjects, outcomes were especially high in science, computing, music, religious education, physical education, business, catering, ICT, art and drama. Sixth form students achieved outstanding outcomes including 25 per cent A*/A grades and 85 per cent A*/C grades with 100 per cent of the students achieving at least a pass grade in every subject.

A spokesman said: "Have you considered a place at Sandwell Academy for Year 7 2018 admission? If you have a child who will be 11 by August 31, 2018 you should register with your Local Authority and list Sandwell Academy as a preference.

"For detailed information on Year 7 admission please attend one of our information evenings – please note attendance is by appointment only. Visit www.sandwellacademy.com for further details and to book a place."

Sandwell Academy

Ofsted Outstanding School 2016|2017

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2011 / 2014 / 2017

Fantastic GCSE Results with 85% of all results graded A*-C

HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER?

Places are available for September 2018 for Year 7

Come to our Information Evenings on Thursday 21 September or Tuesday 10 October 2017

To book your place and for further information please visit our website: www.sandwellacademy.com

0121 525 1700

Email: year7admissions@sandwellacademy.com

OPEN EVENING for Year 6 Students

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 5pm - 8pm

"This is a Good School" - Ofsted 2017

Come along to find out more about us and how to apply for a place. The official open event contains information regarding our "Excellence in Music, Drama and Dance" programmes.

If you are unable to attend the Open Evening you are welcome to make an appointment to view the Academy at our Open Morning on Friday 6th October 2017.

Tours commence at 9.30am - 11.30am.

GEORGE SALTER ACADEMY

OAT

Davey Road, West Bromwich B70 9UW

Tel: 0121 553 4665 www.georgesalter.com

Embark on a journey to academic success

Commercial feature

Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School offers an inclusive education from Year 7 to 13 ensuring students secure university placements and employment with success.

A school spokesman said: "We offer a rich variety of subjects within our forward-looking curriculum.

"Our pastoral care is a strength of the school and Year 7 students benefit from close support from dedicated form tutors, especially in the areas of literacy and numeracy. This enables all students to embrace their studies with confidence.

"Stuart Bathurst, our patron, was a man who took his faith seriously. He saw education as the key to personal growth and as the means to enable children to make the fullest contribution to the common good of society.

Experience

"Stuart Bathurst's example encourages our students to have faith in their abilities, and we as teachers and parents, to place our faith in them.

"Within Key Stage 3 they will gain experience of a wide range of subjects to ensure they make the correct choices at GCSE.

"Key Stage 4 offers a curriculum designed to challenge and stimulate our students to become successful and meet the demands of an ever-changing world.

"Once having secured excellent GCSE examination results, our students are then able to make a successful transition into A-level studies as a member of our vibrant and over-subscribed sixth form.

"Our sixth form students enjoy the best A-level results and are regularly supported in Oxbridge applications and many secure places at universities including: Durham, King's College London, Brunel University, University College London and University of Birmingham.

Stuart Bathurst is a school which offers traditional values and progressive teaching

Students follow a curriculum which is designed to challenge and stimulate

"As a Catholic High School, our students benefit from moral guidance and pastoral support as displayed in the Catholic ethos of our community.

"This ethos permeates every lesson and activity, encouraging students to become honest and reliable adults with a strong moral commitment in their work and behaviour. Young people at Stuart Bathurst always think positively and always take responsibility for their own actions.

"Students are actively guided to think of others and explore ways of helping within the school and community. This voluntary contribution enables students to develop leadership and organisational qualities with a wider understanding of others; all essential skills for higher education and future employment.

"The school offers a distinctive inclusive education based on traditional Christian values and high expectations. We offer an environment where everyone can flourish and students, teachers and support staff work for the common good of the whole community.

"Visitors to the school always comment on the positive atmosphere in classrooms and corridors. This is a school in which all teachers can teach; all students learn.

"This unique balance of traditional values and progressive teaching has enabled our students to achieve academic success."

For more details call 01215561488 or email admin@stuart-bathurst.org.uk or visit www.stuart-bathurst.org.uk

Embark on a journey to academic success

OPEN EVENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE YEAR 7 STUDENTS

OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 20 September 6-9pm

Presentation by the Headteacher at 6pm with tours of the school to follow.

OPEN MORNING

Thursday 21 September 9-11am

Presentation by the Headteacher at 9am with tours of the school to follow.

If these dates are inconvenient for you, then please call and request a personalised tour

Wood Green Road, Wednesbury, WS10 9QS // 0121 556 1488 // admin@stuart-bathurst.org.uk // **stuart-bathurst.org.uk**

Academy Oldbury

Learn today LEAD TOMORROW!

"I feel safe at Oldbury and have made lots of new friends"

Shaniya, Year 7

"Our teachers push us to be the very best we can"

Brooke, Year 10

"Oldbury helped me realise my dream of reading Psychology at university"

Alanya, former student

Bawan, Elle, Inderpal, Lauren and Umair left Oldbury last summer with an incredible 52 A* - A grades between them.

OPEN DAYS

Monday 18th -Friday 22nd September 9am-11am

OPEN EVENING

Monday 18th September Starting 5.30pm to 8pm

Oldbury Academy
Pound Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B68 8NE

0121 533 3750

@oldburyacademy

www.oldburyacademy.org.uk

getintouch@oldburyacademy.org.uk

Giving children 'the best start in life'

Commercial feature

The Q3 Academies Trust is committed to educating the whole child, underpinned by Christian values.

Dr Caroline Badyal, Chief Executive, said: "Our name 'Q3' embodies our ethos: to seek for that which is good, right and true. The Q3 Family currently has two Academies in the Trust, Q3 Academy Great Barr and Q3 Academy Langley; both Academies are vibrant and exciting places to learn and grow, where we strive for excellence in all that we do.

"There is a relentless focus on high quality teaching and enrichment opportunities for every young person who joins the Q3 Academies Trust; we are determined to give our children the very best start in life.

Expectations

"Our academic achievements are impressive, and to support this we focus on character development and have high expectations of behaviour.

"Pastoral care is exceptional and the excellent relationships are a striking feature of our work, as we help students to develop mutual respect, empathy and care for others. We recognise that education is also about nurturing talent and every young person is encouraged to engage in the wide range of activities on offer across the Q3 Academies Trust.

"We have an outstanding team of staff who work tirelessly to challenge every student to be the 'best'; they have exceptionally high expectations of our young people.

"Strong, collaborative partnerships with our parents and carers contribute to the on-going success of their children. This relationship begins before entry to Year 7 to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

Academic achievements at both of the Q3 academies are 'impressive'

Strong, collaborative partnerships contribute to the on-going success of children

"You can only begin to understand our passion and commitment to excellence by visiting our Academies; your choice of secondary education will be such an important decision for you and your child."

Mr Peter Lee, Head of School at Q3 Academy Langley, said: "It was incredibly exciting to open the first new secondary school built in Sandwell in the last 10 years, and as we enter our second year welcoming 240 new students into Year 7 in September 2017 we are very excited about the future of the Academy.

"Built on the site of the historic grammar school but offering a new building boasting state-of-the-art facilities, our new, refreshing, innovative and rigorous curriculum has already attracted overwhelming interest both locally and nationally. Students will have an excellent transition from primary school, enabling all to make rapid progress as we have an unswerving belief that what happens at Key Stage 3 plays a vital part in a child's educational journey.

"Our unique Thursday afternoon offer of physical education and enrichment will ensure that students are given the time and space for building confidence, developing skills and trying a wide range of activities.

"We look forward to welcoming any prospective students and parents/carers and invite you to visit our open mornings from Monday, September 25 to Friday, September 29 from 9.15am-11am and also our open day event held on Saturday, 30 September 30 from 1pm-4pm."

Mr Mark Arnull, Head of School at Q3 Great Barr, said: "We know that choosing the right secondary school can be a worrying time for students and their families.

"Our philosophy is simple. We want every child to feel happy and excited about coming to school.

Only when each child feels secure and comfortable can we challenge them to grow and learn together.

"We want our students to return home telling their families of the memorable exciting learning experiences they have enjoyed. Experiences that make it easier to recall the detail necessary for exam success and experiences that develop their character as much as their academic potential.

"Only if our staff can say that what we provide is good enough for their own children is it good enough for yours and I'm proud to say this commitment to care, coupled with high academic ambition is helping all our young people to flourish.

"You are very welcome to visit us to meet our greatest ambassadors; our students and staff."

Q3 ACADEMY LANGLEY

OPEN WEEK

Monday 25th - Saturday 30th September 2017

Join us for our Open Week events at
Q3 Academy Langley, Moat Road, Oldbury, B68 8ED

Open Mornings

Monday 25th - Friday 29th September: 9.15am - 11am

Open Day

Saturday 30th September: 1pm - 4pm

For more information, please contact Mrs May: heather.may@q3academy.org.uk - 0121 358 6186 ext 1469

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* SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

ENROL NOW

Ofsted Good Provider

Store opens up new post office outlet

THE Post Office is opening a new Post Office 'local' service with longer opening hours in Tipton. The service will be provided at a Post Office serving point in Powis Avenue Store at Ocker Hill, situated alongside the retail till.

As with any other branch, robust security procedures are in place, anyone handling Post Office transactions, including new staff, will be fully trained on all operational and service issues.

Post Office services will be available during the store's opening hours, 7am to 8pm Monday – Saturday and 9am to 2pm on Sunday. The opening hours which will increase to 83 hours a week, will ensure that the branch is more convenient.

Photos wanted for history day

A LOCAL history day is being held on October 7 at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre in Tipton Road from 10am to 4pm.

Organisers are asking people to take along photographs and documents about soldiers from the borough to be copied and added to the centre's impressive collection. There will be displays by family and history societies and behind-the-scenes tours.

Visitors will be able to get advice on researching family history.

FOCUS ON TIPTON

Firefighter canoeists feel the heat as lock runs dry

A TEAM of fundraising firemen were left high and dry on a sponsored canoe trip through Great Bridge. The group of six firefighters joined forces to paddle the route from Kings Norton to Walsall for The Fire Fighters Charity.

But they ended up having to carry their boats for half a mile after hitting a drained section of the canal. However, that didn't stop the determined firefighters who still raked in £1,200 through their fundraising campaign, which sparked the Twitter hashtag #smethwicksplash.

By Luke Bartlett

And the donations are still coming in for the group from fire stations including Smethwick and Perry Barr.

Crew commander Lee Richardson said: "We hadn't even considered it, but it gave us a bit of a rest from rowing.

"I really enjoyed it as a bit of a team building exercise, we're quite a close Watch anyway.

"We have got a guy from Sheffield, a guy from Worcester, so for us to get any time together outside of work, it's quite a bit of a effort, it's just nice to see everybody together working. None of us are really canoeists, it's just something we spoke about over a coffee before work one day.

"We found that first day quite easy, but our muscles began aching the second day but it was all fairly plain sailing. This is all thanks to Alex, he did all the work to get the canoes, he contacted the companies about potential donations."

Firefighters Alex Wilson, Edward Smith, Chris Mason, Samuel Miller-Hodges, Richard Morgan and Green Watch Smethwick crew commander Mr Richardson tackled the route, which saw the team canoeing from Kings Norton to Smethwick and then Smethwick to Walsall on day two – 24 miles in total in three canoes over two days.

The crew had to negotiate eight locks that had been drained of water, around a half-mile stretch near Great Bridge which had been dried out, forcing the six men to have to carry their canoes longer than expected.

It is suspected that maintenance work including diggers was taking place and the cause for the lack of water.

The Fire Fighters Charity offers invaluable support to firefighters and their families nationwide.

Samuel Miller-Hodges, Edward Smith and Richard Morgan

Team rallies to car quest in charities funds hope

The Thomas Dudley Pavestone Rally team

A PETROLHEAD from Tipton is part of a team taking part in the trip of a lifetime all while raising funds for charity.

A four-man crew, making up the Thomas Dudley team, was attempting to drive a banger in the Pavestone Rally, covering around 2,500 miles from Dover to Monte Carlo, after being donated a car valued £500.

Four employees in total make up the Thomas Dudley team. Tipton-born and bred Anthony McDonagh is joined by Daniel Mills, from Solihull, and London pair Steven Page and Tony Grimley. The quartet all work for cast iron specialists Thomas Dudley, based on the Birmingham Road.

They started off last week on their quest to cross 10 countries in the 2001 reg Nissan Primera with 110,000 miles already on the clock, and hoped to raise £10,000 for charities Rainy Day Trust and Teenage Cancer Trust.

Mr McDonagh, who is now based in Derby said: "We just want to have a bit of a laugh and raise money for a good cause. We have already raise more than £7,000.

"We did a semi-naked photo shoot as well to help raise awareness. We just hope the car makes it!"

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The Ticket

VINCENT & FLAVIA: IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO

PAGE 2

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It's hard work but we were obsessed

Strictly Come Dancing made them household names. But Vincent and Flavia have outlasted the BBC's number one family show by hitting the road for a series of UK tours.

They are back on the road with a new production, Tango Moderno, and will headline Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday until September 23 – with extra matinees on Wednesday and the Saturday.

Tango Moderno is the irresistible new stage spectacular from tango superstars Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace.

Dance partners for over two decades, world champions, Strictly favourites and West End stage stars Vincent and Flavia plan to fuse Ballroom, Latin, and Argentine tango to give fans a performance that smoulders with desire.

Their latest show follows the successes of Midnight Tango, hailed as 'a triumph' by the Daily Telegraph, the 'utterly unmissable' Dance Til Dawn (Smooth Radio) and the 'fabulous must-see' The Last Tango (Radio Times).

Flavia says the dancer's fourth show will give fans something new. "It's always important to try something we've not done before. The fourth time round is difficult because we've done so many different stories.

"But we wanted this show to be more modern, more up to date, so the music will be a little more recognisable, particularly by the younger generation. It's music from the radio, it's set in an urban city and it's got that contemporary vibe. There'll be a story and we'll be part of the narration."

PASSION

Vincent added that dance was his great passion – but staying focused for a long UK tour was always tough.

"Motivation is the hardest part, to be honest. All the people that dance and do this job will agree. When it's live on stage it's great because you connect to the normal people. They are the people – mums, parents and so on – who keep you going.

"And that's great because they keep you sane. You suffer from solitude quite a lot because you're away every week at different hotels. Sometimes you wake up and think 'where am I?' because we travel so much."

Putting together a major new show is tough. It takes weeks and weeks of 10am-to-6pm rehearsals before a technical week ahead of the first show. Flavia says: "You have really long days and there is a bit of adrenalin and nerves. Once the show's up and running it eases off. We tend to do a half-hour warm-up before every show. We have a little time off and people do their own thing, going to the gym, resting or walking. You learn to do that, or you take a massage or see the physio."

Vincent moved to the UK when he was 17 to follow his dream of dancing.

"I wanted to become the best in the world, as everybody else does, so I moved here. It was a coincidence that I met Flavia, who was Italian and moved here at the age of four.

"Every day, we had dance lessons and were training. Our lives were really about that, you know, about competitions and trying to win. We wanted to get into the final and get the world championship. That was our lives."

The couple then got asked to do a couple of performances on Strictly before the show's producer asked them to become a part of it full-time.

Flavia said: "We didn't know how big the show was. Even now, I can't believe we've been through all of that. It was amazing."

Vincent says: "Before we were famous in the ballroom world and we could walk the high street. Now people stop us and want to have a photo. It was a shock to the system. Since then, we've never looked for work, it's come to us. We didn't think 'shall we do theatre?' The producers came to us and here we are."

Favia adds: "It's been a long road and initially during the first part of our careers it was a hell of a lot of sacrifice. You think back and realise how hard you worked and that we didn't have a life. We were obsessed with the weekend being about travelling to an event and a competition and paying a £40 entry fee.

"Then at 10am we'd do round one and come out at 10pm in the evening. That was the weekend gone. Then it was dance lessons, practice rehearsals and training. Now we look back and it's 'wow'. We wouldn't do that again. My niece is dancing these days but I am so not-pro dancing. I know how hard it is and what you have to go through. I'm trying to sway her off. It's really hard work. I know the sacrifice young people have to make in their teens and 20s. It can affect lots of things in later life. But it's worked for us and we've kept going and gone from one thing for another. We were lucky, things could have been very different. We don't regret anything."

The couple have visited Birmingham on plenty of occasions and always feel at home in the Second City. They're looking forward to their return and will be out and about in the city's restaurants and shops.

Favia says: "We love Birmingham and are always happy to come up there. I remember places because of the shopping. I try to go to Lasan every time, if my husband comes up. He loves Birmingham too and studied there."

Vincent adds: "I used to buy, buy, buy. I'd buy one for the stage and one for myself. My wardrobe is exploding. So no more shopping. There might be a beautiful leather jacket, however, so you never know."

Partners through time – Vincent and Flavia love dancing together

> *You think back and realise how hard you worked and that we didn't have a life*

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

John Legend

Legend to enjoy Darkness and Light at his concert

Acclaimed, multi-platinum selling, Oscar, Golden Globe and Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter John Legend brings his 'Darkness and Light' tour to the Arena Birmingham on Wednesday.

Featuring the singles Surefire and Love Me Now, the album Darkness and Light was released to critical acclaim in December 2016.

Since its release – the fifth studio album from the American singer – Legend has co-executive produced and starred in the box office smash musical La La Land, which has gone on to win seven Golden Globe Awards and six Academy Awards. He also performed the title track to the recent Disney live action remake of Beauty and the Beast with the increasingly popular Ariana Grande.

It's worth getting to the Birmingham city centre venue early to catch support from husky-voiced singer-songwriter Jack Savoretti, who won lots of new fans with his albums Written in Scars and Sleep No More.

Tickets for the Barclaycard Arena date are on sale, starting at £51.53, from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

A musician faces greatest challenge

Tom Kempinski's award-winning play Duet For One, about a talented musician struck down by a debilitating illness, is being staged at Birmingham Rep from September 22 to October 7.

In this powerful, moving and at times poignantly funny play, Stephanie Abrahams is a brilliant concert violinist who seemingly has it all, but is forced to re-evaluate her life by a shock diagnosis.

Faced with a truth too difficult to comprehend she consults psychiatrist Dr Feldmann, resulting in a duel between two razor-sharp minds in Kempinski's ultimately life-enhancing tribute to the human spirit.

The play, which was inspired by the life of cellist Jacqueline Du Pré, premiered at the Bush Theatre in 1980 with Frances De La Tour and David de Keyser and had great success in West End and Broadway runs.

It also had a major revival in 2009 starring Juliet Stephenson and Henry Goodman.

The film adaptation of Duet For One, released in 1986, saw Julie Andrews nominated for the Golden Globe for Best Actress.

Jemma Redgrave was billed to play the role of Stephanie Abrahams but had to pull out of the production due to ill health.

Now the part is being played by Belinda Lang, pictured above, familiar from her TV roles in 2point4 Children and Second Thoughts.

She last trod the boards at Birmingham Rep in East is East.

Oliver Cotton, best known for his role as Cesare Borgia in BBC series The Borgias, will play Dr Feldmann.

Book tickets online at birmingham-rep.co.uk/duet or call 0121 236 4455.

Gary is gagging for new tour date

Stand-up comic Gary Delaney is bringing his There's Something About Gary show to Stourbridge Town Hall on Saturday

The Solihull-born comic, married to fellow comedian Sarah Millican, is the only comic ever to have got two gags in the top 10 for Dave's TV Funniest Jokes. His last tour took in more than 200 venues. Delaney, a double Sony Award winner, is a regular on TV's Mock the Week.

Tickets fcost £15. Call the box office on 01384 812812 or see www.boroughhalls.co.uk website.

In the Nik of time for Kershaw's Robin gig

Singer Nik Kershaw will perform in Bilston later this month. The 56-year-old idol of the 80s, whose debut album Human Racing gave him his first UK top five hits with I Won't Let The Sun Go Down On Me and Wouldn't It Be Good, will be appearing at The Robin 2 in Mount Pleasant on Sunday, September 24. Advance tickets are £25 from the box office on 01902 401211 or online at www.therobin.co.uk, or £27 on the door.

Other gigs to look out for include traditional 70s-style rockers The Quireboys at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms this Saturday, the same night Nick Dagger brings The Counterfeit Stones to the Robin 2. Deborah Bonham is at the Slade Rooms next Friday, September 22, the same night Big Country, with singer Simon Hough, are at the Robin.

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

FULL STEAM AHEAD!!

This year we bring you a unique experience! An evening with World's largest travelling Concert Organ the 118 key 'Victory', It can play tunes from the oldest Classics to modern pop and everything in between. It will be playing simultaneous with the smaller 73key Organ 'The Locomotion', alongside a Video screen wall showing synchronised pictures. The Film clips include War Time Classics, Comedy's as well as the latest blockbusters.

American West - The North American Indian Village where there will be a large display of authentic Indian Artefacts sent over from the United States, showing the fabulous Indian craftwork, with Indian dance displays that range from very old style to modern, including the Eagle Dance, the spectacular Hoop Dance and many others.

There will be a variety of Steam Traction Engines, as well as Showmans Engines, Agricultural Engines, Steam Rollers and a selection of miniature Steam Engines and Vehicles.

Exhibits also include – over a 100 Vintage, and Classic Cars, along with Commercial Vehicles, Land Rovers, Motorbikes and Cycles, Tractors, Military Vehicles, Various Model Displays & Collections. There will also be a variety of Organs from hand turned to fairground.

There will be arena events throughout Saturday & Sunday with various vehicle parades and displays including the Ferret World Road Show presented by the 'Blackcountry Man' with an informative and amusing history of ferrets, and audience participation with lots of children racing against the ferrets and each other in special racing tubes.

The Fun Dog Show organised by Birch Hill Dog Rescue have a variety of classes on both Saturday and Sunday - starting approximately 2.00pm. Entry £1.00 per dog per class

There will be Service on Sunday at 11:00 Situated by Brian Well's 1895 Gavioli Fair Organ

In addition, there will be Market Stalls, Fair, Beer Tent, Refreshments and Much More.

Dr. Busker will be performing in the Beer Tent on Saturday Evening 8 until Late.

For more information please contact: -

Keith Shakespeare, Rally Organiser

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The traditional Bangladeshi and Indian restaurant has a fully licensed bar and offers a very varied menu.

For those who set high standards for Indian cuisine you will be pleased to know that the head chef won chef of the year in 2013 and is reputation is well known in the area.

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SATURDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 16

CHOICE

Paddy McGuinness

Even Better Than the Real Thing
(BBC1, 7pm)
Paddy McGuinness presents performances by some of the UK's best tribute artists, beginning with doubles of Whitney Houston, George Michael, Little Mix, Amy Winehouse and Bruno Mars, who perform individually and in never-before-seen duets. At the end of the show, the studio audience gets to vote on their favourite act of the night.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live PDC Darts Champions League. Coverage of four group-stage matches. **4.30** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.40** Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. TV experts Kieran Long, Piers Taylor, Martin Roberts, Amanda Lamb, Vicki Butler-Henderson, Tiff Needell, John Hammond and Laura Tobin compete in the unorthodox quiz show. (R)

7.00 Even Better Than the Real Thing. Paddy McGuinness presents some of the UK's best tribute artists, beginning with doubles of Whitney Houston, George Michael, Little Mix, Amy Winehouse and Bruno Mars.

8.00 Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. The first couple to win two rounds get to play for £50,000 and each time the champions defeat a new set of opponents their winnings mount up. Last in the series.

8.45 Casualty. Dylan's attempt to reunite Sanosi with his uncle does not go according to plan, while Alicia wants to learn to drive, but a crash course with Elle ends in an accident.

9.35 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes ends up at the wrong venue after trying to gatecrash Maria's hen party. She then tries to impress the bride-to-be's mother during a dinner date, but the evening ends in chaos. (R)

10.05 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Watford v Manchester City at Vicarage Road and Tottenham Hotspur v Swansea City at Wembley Stadium.

11.55 People Just Do Nothing. Grindah goes on his stag night, but ends up having cold feet while Beats makes a mistake when booking the stripper.

12.25 Film: The Uninvited. (2009) **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The NFL Show. (R) **6.30** How We Won the War. (R) **7.00 Film:** My Favorite Wife. (1940) A man remarries seven years after his wife's disappearance – then finds his life thrown into turmoil by her unexpected return. Screwball comedy, with Cary Grant and Irene Dunne. **8.25** James Mason: Talking Pictures. (R) **9.05 Film:** Hotel Reserve. (1944) Thriller, starring James Mason. **10.30** Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) **11.00** Coast. (R) **12.00** Len and Ainsley's Big Food Adventure. (R) **12.45** Triathlon: World Grand Final. Ore Oduba introduces coverage of the season finale in Rotterdam, featuring the men's and women's elite races. With analysis by Annie Emmerson and Vicky Holland. **5.15** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R)

6.15 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and his platoon set up an observation post in the local lighthouse, but manage to annoy ARP warden Hodges by inadvertently flooding the whole town with light during an air raid. Comedy first shown in 1970, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

6.45 PDC Champions League of Darts. Jason Mohammad presents coverage of four further group-stage matches from Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff, as the second staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players continues. This session will see the four winners from this afternoon's clashes face each other, while the four losers from those contests will be involved in the other games.

10.15 The A-Z of Later – with Jools Holland: From Adele to ZZ Top. Highlights from the past 25 years of the music programme, including the TV debuts of Adele and Amy Winehouse, as well as performances by Sting, Chrissie Hynde and Rag 'n' Bone Man.

11.45 Film: The White Countess. (2005) A relationship develops between a blind former American diplomat and a Russian refugee in 1930s Shanghai. Period romantic drama, with Ralph Fiennes and Natasha Richardson.

1.50 Film: Renoir. (2012) The elderly impressionist painter finds fresh inspiration in a model, but his son falls in love with her. Drama, with Michel Bouquet, Christa Theret and Vincent Rottiers. **3.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Star Wars: The Yoda Chronicles. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.20** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The X Factor. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live at Doncaster. Including coverage of day three of the St Leger meeting in Doncaster. **4.00 Film:** Bean. (1997) Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 The Family Chase.

7.00 Cannonball. Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which contestants tackle a series of water-based, obstacle course challenges in the hope of claiming the Cannonball Cup.

8.00 The X Factor. Talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary, in which solo singers and groups compete to impress judges Sharon Osbourne, Nicole Scherzinger, Louis Walsh and Simon Cowell and win a recording contract.

9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by some of the stars of The Great British Bake-Off, with old hand Paul Hollywood and new presenter Noel Fielding dropping in to discuss the current series in its new home on Channel 4. Jonathan also chats to the cast of spy comedy sequel Kingsman: The Golden Circle, welcoming Taron Egerton, who reprises his role from the original film as trainee spy Eggsy, and a trio of Oscar-winners in the shape of Jeff Bridges, Halle Berry and Julianne Moore. Craig David completes tonight's guest list, and performs live in the studio.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Film: The Nutty Professor. (1996) Comedy remake, starring Eddie Murphy, Jada Pinkett Smith and James Coburn.

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.40** Triathlon: Vitoria-Gasteiz. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **12.25** F1 Meets Jackie Stewart. **12.55** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage of the Singapore Grand Prix qualifying session (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.45** World's Most Expensive Cars. **4.45** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Location, Location, Location. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Dunkirk: The New Evidence. Documentary examining the famous Second World War evacuation of Allied soldiers – codenamed Operation Dynamo – from the beaches of Dunkirk, France, between May 26 and June 4, 1940. Recently released Ministry of Defence files reveal that, far from being absent as many historians have believed, the RAF was suffering massive losses supporting the evacuation. Operating at high altitude and deep inside France, RAF planes were halting the bulk of Luftwaffe bombers before they could reach the beaches. The files also reveal that the famous Spitfire took flight for the first time during the mission, and the agile fighter was a spectacular success. (R)

8.00 WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trails. New series. Monty Halls reveals stories of Allied soldiers who escaped from Nazi territory during the Second World War, starting with the most successful mass escape of Allied PoWs.

9.00 Film: Super 8. (2011) A boy and his friends sneak out at night to film an amateur zombie movie, only to witness a train derailment. As people start disappearing from their town and the military descends in force, they come to realise a dangerous alien was being transported on the train and is now on the loose. Sci-fi thriller, starring Joel Courtney.

11.20 Film: The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones. (2013)

1.35 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.30** Hollyoaks. **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.20** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.55** Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **11.20 Film:** Columbo: Grand Deceptions. (1989) **1.15 Film:** Columbo: Murder, Smoke and Shadows. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)

6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Agents Max and Steve try to recover almost £2,000 owed by the owner of a bridal shop in London, while officers Gary and Cona in Kent chase over £4,000 of vet fees after two neighbouring dogs got into a fight. Elsewhere, agents in south west London, agents try to collect almost £11,500 owed by a small business. (R)

7.00 Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. One-off edition in which the High Court enforcement agents are caught in the crossfire of three bitter family disputes, including a debt-dodging man who pushes his panic-stricken mother over the edge. Plus, a family booted onto the streets at night by a ruthless aunt, and a man who won't engage with the agents and loses his car. (R)

8.00 The Great Fire: Death and Destruction. The worst day of the inferno, revealing how St Paul's Cathedral burned so fiercely its stones exploded and Pudding Lane baker Thomas Farriner made sure no blame landed on him. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Barnsley v Aston Villa at Oakwell, Hull City v Sunderland at KCOM Stadium, and Millwall v Leeds United at The Den.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Blackburn Rovers v AFC Wimbledon, and Lincoln City v Mansfield Town.

10.30 The NCIS Movie: Legend. Feature-length episode. The agents travel to LA to work with another NCIS team on an investigation that escalates into a high-priority case, and Tony begins to pry into Ziva's life. (R)

12.05 Cricket on 5. **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Ring of Fire.

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Brain with David Eagleman **8.00** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **9.00** Black Lake **10.25** Easter Island: Mysteries of a Lost World **11.55** Top of the Pops: 1984 **12.30** Timeshift: The People's Liners – Britain's Lost Pleasure Fleets **1.30** A Very British Map: The Ordnance Survey Story **2.30** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **3.30** Close

ITV2
12.00 Film: Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10 Film:** Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **2.10** The X Factor **3.15 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **5.25 Film:** King Kong (2005) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30 Film:** King Kong (2005) **9.00 Film:** The Fast and the Furious (2001) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** The Fast and the Furious (2001) **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.05** Celebrity Juice **2.05** Bromans **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
12.00 Film: Carry On Matron (1972) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10 Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **1.50** Wycliffe **2.55** Foyle's War **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** A Touch of Frost **1.10** On the Buses **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.45 Pawn Stars **3.25 Film:** The Pink Panther (1963) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30 Film:** The Pink Panther (1963) **5.45 Film:** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **6.45** FYI Daily **6.50 Film:** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **7.45** Live Boxing. Callum Smith v Erik Skoglund. **11.30 Film:** Tango & Cash (1989) **12.30** FYI Daily **12.35 Film:** Tango & Cash (1989) **1.40** The Classic Car Show **2.35** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.15 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **12.30** The Goldbergs **2.00** Streetmate **3.00** Don't Tell the Bride **4.00** The Great British Bake Off **5.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Bad Teacher (2011) **10.50** Naked Attraction **11.55** Celebs Go Dating **3.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **3.55** How I Met Your Mother **4.40** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4
11.00 Marmaduke (2010) **1.00** The Rugrats Movie (1999) **2.35** The Three Musketeers (1973) **4.45** Field of Dreams (1989) **6.55** Dante's Peak (1997) **9.00** 2 Guns (2013) **11.10** Nina Forever (2015) **1.15** Black Swan (2010) **3.30** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 17

CHOICE

Richard Madden

Electric Dreams: The Hood Maker
(Channel 4, 9pm)
New series. Sci-fi anthology series featuring stories based on the works of Philip K Dick. The first story is set in a strangely archaic future city, following a devastating meteor shower that has wiped out much of the world's technology. The cataclysm has also led to the development of a breed of telepathic mutants, and as tensions arise between the new race of 'teeps' and the remnants of humanity, war seems inevitable. The only hope of stopping the conflict falls with a human and a teep struggling to suppress their feelings for one another.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Fake or Fortune? (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Songs of Praise. **4.35** How to Stay Young. (R) **5.35** Invictus: Battle to the Start Line.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison celebrates the Lake District becoming a World Heritage Site, examining the factors that allow an area to become a protected landscape and examining how local people have shaped the national park. Plus, a look ahead to this year's Children in Need Big Ramble with a father and son who are raising money for the charity, and details of how viewers can take part in the event.

8.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould investigate the first work of sculpture featured on the show, an unusual piece called The Gazing Head, which may have been made by Alberto Giacometti in 1930s Paris. The quest to uncover the truth is complicated by the fact that the sculpture was once broken into several pieces by a cat. Last in the series.

9.00 Strike – The Silkworm. Conclusion of the two-part adaptation of JK Rowling's detective novel. Strike and Robin become suspicious of Fancourt after he makes a revealing mistake during a TV interview, while an encounter at a party leads to further suspicious revelations. The authorship of the fatal novel comes under question, and a literary analyst is called in to examine the test. Matthew is less than happy to discover that Strike and Robin are working together again, while Leonora discovers a mysterious purchase was made on the family credit card.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action.

11.30 Fugitives. (R)

12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **11.30** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** PDC Champions League of Darts. Coverage of the concluding group-stage matches from Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff, as the second staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players continues. **4.30** Tribes, Predators & Me. (R) **5.30** Top Gear. (R)

6.30 PDC Champions League of Darts. Jason Mohammad presents coverage of the semi-finals and final from Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena, as the players to have progressed through the group stage hope to claim the £100,000 first prize. These matches will take place over the best of 21 legs, as the winner of the second staging of this tournament is set to be decided.

10.00 Film: Risk. (2016) Premiere. Documentary following Wikileaks founder Julian Assange over the course of six years during his political asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, as he sought to avoid extradition to Sweden on sexual assault allegations. The programme examines how Assange's situation impacted on the organisation and movement he had created, and the conflicts and contradictions within his inner circle.

11.25 Film: The Devil's Double. (2011) An Iraqi soldier is forced to become a double for Saddam Hussein's sadistic son Uday to distract assassins. His new role plunges him into a world of depravity, as he becomes a first-hand witness to the acts of murder and violence Uday routinely indulges in. Drama, starring Dominic Cooper, Ludivine Sagnier and Philip Quast.

1.10 Sign Zone: Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs a new run of topical debate in which a panel of politicians and other guests face questions from the audience. Stratford in east London is the location for the first show, with guests including novelist Will Self. (R) **2.10** Holby City. As Guy's behaviour becomes increasingly erratic, Zosia's concerns put her in an impossible position, and Donna is shocked when her patient has a surprising visitor. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **9.55 Film:** Problem Child. (1990) **11.30** Robson Green's Coastal Lives. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **1.10** Catchphrase. (R) **1.50** The X Factor. (R) **3.00 Film:** Never Say Never Again. (1983) **5.35** Victoria. (R)

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which Professor Green, Sair Khan and Sean Kelly answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

8.00 The X Factor. Talent contest, hosted by Dermot O'Leary, in which solo singers and groups compete to win a recording contract.

9.00 Victoria. The royal court celebrates the birth of the Queen's second child, but Victoria alone is unhappy as she struggles to bond with her newborn son. A crisis compels Albert to return to Coburg, separating the couple for the first time since their wedding, and on his arrival, he learns a terrible family secret that leaves him plunged into torment. Skerrett makes a disastrous mistake that puts Francatelli in jeopardy, while Drummond's relationship with Lord Alfred comes under threat by a reluctant revelation.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories. Barrister Robert Rinder examines the cases of six children killed in a house fire that may not have been an accident and a woman who suffered a brutal attack in her own home. (R)

11.20 Liar. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Last Man Standing. **6.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Live Build-Up. A look ahead to the race. **12.35** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Live. Coverage of the 14th race of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.10** Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix Live Reaction. In-depth analysis of this afternoon's race. **4.15** The Crystal Maze. (R) **5.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. George Clarke presides over the final categories, for eco-friendly and budget sheds, before the judges decide which of the eight finalists is this year's winner. Last in the series.

8.00 Speed with Guy Martin: F1 Challenge. The motorcycle racer joins a Formula One pit crew during the 2017 Belgian Grand Prix, learning the split second timing that allows a team to change four tyres in 1.92 seconds.

9.00 Electric Dreams: The Hood Maker. New series. Sci-fi anthology series based on the works of Philip K Dick. In the aftermath of a catastrophic meteor shower, war brews between surviving humans and telepathic mutants.

10.10 Lee Mack: Hit the Road Mack. The comedian performs at London's Hammersmith Apollo in a show from his 2014 tour. (R)

11.05 Film: Slumdog Millionaire. (2008) An uneducated teenager from the Mumbai slums is only one question away from winning a quiz show, but the authorities are reluctant to believe a youngster from such a humble background could succeed without cheating. Under questioning, he tells a police inspector the eventful story of his life – and how he came to know so much. Danny Boyle's Oscar-winning drama, starring Dev Patel and Freida Pinto.

1.20 The Supervet: Bionic Specials. The owner of a one-year-old cat born with deformed front legs hopes Professor Noel Fitzpatrick will be able to fit it with two new bionic feet. (R) **2.15** Gillette World Sport. **2.45** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.10** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.10** Building the Dream. (R) **5.05** Four in a Bed. (R) **5.30** Too Many Cooks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wissper. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.20** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.35** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.00 Film:** Open Season. (2006) Animated comedy, with the voice of Martin Lawrence. **4.45 Film:** Annie. (2014) Premiere. Musical remake, starring Quvenzhane Wallis and Jamie Foxx. **5.45** 5 News Update. **5.50 Film:** Annie. (2014) Premiere. Concluded.

7.05 Before They Were Stars. Dale Winton treks back through the TV archive to uncover embarrassing early brushes with fame endured by some of today's biggest stars. (R)

8.00 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman introduce action from the third round of matches, including Northampton Saints v Bath, Worcester Warriors v Exeter Chiefs and Wasps v Harlequins.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 How Magic Changed TV. The story of magic on television, examining the challenges of performing illusions for a TV camera that can see everything. Some of the most successful modern magicians reveal the performers who inspired them, and take a look back at how performers like Paul Daniels, Penn & Teller, Derren Brown, David Blane and Dynamo transformed the art form.

11.05 When Magic Goes Wrong. Illusions that went spectacularly badly, including stories of magicians' brushes with death, as well as mishaps involving Dynamo, Paul Daniels and David Blaine. (R)

1.45 SuperCasino. **3.10** Gotham. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Last Night of the Proms from Around the UK **8.30** Secret Voices of Hollywood **10.00** Cinema Through the Eye of Magnum **10.55** Clara Bow: Hollywood's Lost Screen Goddess **11.55** Precision: The Measure of All Things **12.55** Apples, Pears and Paint: How to Make a Still Life Painting **2.25** Cinema Through the Eye of Magnum **3.20** Close

ITV2

11.40 The X Factor **12.55** Take Me Out **2.10 Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15 Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **4.15 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **5.15** FYI Daily **5.20 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **6.20 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **8.10 Film:** Gravity (2013) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15 Film:** Gravity (2013) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

2.05 Film: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **3.10** FYI Daily **3.15 Film:** Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **3.55** Wycliffe **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Tonight at the Palladium **10.00** Kate: The Making of a Modern Queen **11.00** Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre **1.10** The Knock **3.00** Mr Selfridge **4.15** Griff's Great Britain **5.05** Judge Judy **5.25** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. **6.30** Pawn Stars **7.00** Fishing Allstars **8.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **9.00 Film:** Airplane! (1980) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15 Film:** Airplane! (1980) **10.50** Car Crash Global **11.50 Film:** Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **1.10** FYI Daily **1.15 Film:** Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **1.50** River Monsters **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Don't Tell the Bride **12.00** Streetmate **12.30** My Hotter Half **1.40 Film:** Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen (2004) **3.25** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Home Alone (1990) **10.00** Naked Attraction **11.05** Gogglebox **12.10** Celebs Go Dating **2.15** Don't Tell the Bride **3.05** Rude Tube **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4

1.00 Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **2.50** Carry On Spying (1964) **4.35** Moonrise Kingdom (2012) **6.25** Battleship (2012) **9.00** The Mechanic (2011) **10.50** Welcome to the Punch (2013) **12.50** The King of Comedy (1983) **3.05** Close

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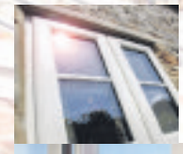

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Drive Angry, Channel 5, 11.05pm
A man breaks out of Hell when a satanic cult murders his daughter and kidnaps her baby. The infernal escapee pursues the leader of the fanatics, who plans to sacrifice the child to gain ultimate power – but he is being followed in turn by an agent of the Devil sent to take him back to his damnation. Fantasy thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Amber Heard and William Fichtner. (2011)

TUESDAY
The Deadly Room: Garage Sale Mystery III, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Jennifer Shannon has a keen eye for a bargain, picking them up at garage sales and selling them for a tidy profit in her own shop. But she also has a nose for a mystery, which comes in handy when she uses her intuitive skills to investigate her friend's death in a multi-million-dollar home with a dark history. Crime drama based on Suzi Weinert's novel, starring Lori Loughlin and Brendan Meyer. (2015)

Drive Angry, Monday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY
My Mother's Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Adopted teacher Lauren Coulson tries to find out more of her family roots, and soon uncovers her father in prison for killing her grandfather. He claims he is innocent and her weak and frightened biological mother refuses to tell what she knows. Further impediments seem intent on preventing Lauren from finding the truth. Thriller, starring Nicole de Boer. (2012)

THURSDAY
Abducted Love, Channel 5, 3.15pm
After her husband is abducted on his way to work, Ann Bradshaw and her teenage daughter Casey find themselves in danger when they help the police investigate the kidnapping. Thriller, starring Daphne Zuniga and Nicole Munoz. (2016)

FRIDAY
A Few Best Men, BBC1, 12.05am
An Englishman proposes to his Australian girlfriend, but the antics of his three best men turn the wedding into a disaster. Comedy, starring Xavier Samuel and Laura Brent. (2011)

It's a dog's life for the doctor as the series returns

Will we ever grow tired of Dr Martin Ellingham and his adventures?

It's 13 years since the first series of Doc Martin aired, and our love for it continues to grow. In fact, it's been somewhat painful to be without new episodes during the past couple of years.

But now Martin Clunes and the rest of Portwenn's familiar faces are back for a new run, which will also see Sigourney Weaver reprise her guest role as an American tourist, and Clunes' old Men Behaving Badly sparring partner Caroline Quentin return as eccentric vet Angela Sim. Art Malik is also set to pop up as a visitor with intriguing news.

For Clunes, returning as the grumpy medic was a no-brainer – he describes playing him as "the best job in telly," adding, "what could possible match this: staying in the West country, surrounded by dogs and people I like?

"I really love doing this. I love everything about it. I love being in Cornwall, even though I hate being away from home. If I have got to be away from home then I'd be here. I love being near the sea. I love being out of cities."

Clunes, along with his wife Philippa Braithwaite, is one of the show's producers via their company Buffalo Pictures, and as a thank you to the people of Port Isaac, where the programme is filmed, they have set up a trust fund to help pay for a few local amenities, including a new car park – after all, the hundreds of people who come to watch them film have to be able to put their vehicles somewhere.

"The crowds who come to watch have to be marshalled but we have not shied away from it because the village is such a part of the series," says Clunes. "It never bothers me to see the crowds watching us filming. I talk to them, I look at their dogs. The most helpful thing is the dogs. You don't have to talk just about the fact you're on the telly, you can talk about the dogs."

As you can probably tell (if you weren't already away), Clunes is mad about canines. Sadly, his alter ego can't stand them, so imagine his horror when the Doc is forced to take in Buddy after his wife Louisa tells him that having a dog will be good for their son James Henry.

"The Doc is making a real effort to make things work between him and Louisa, and to be a better husband and father.

"As ever the Doc would rather nothing changed, and is resilient to the notion of change almost for the sake of it, but he sees that having the dog living with them is something Louisa wants, and is ultimately supportive, and actually allows a dog into the house.

"But the introduction of the dog is a token," adds Clunes. "It's a trial period with strict parameters, and when no-one is looking he throws the dog out…"

Will Buddy eventually win him over? Let's hope so for all their sakes.

Martin Clunes stars in Doc Martin, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
W1A
BBC2, 10pm
For a while, it seemed that we had seen the last of Ian Fletcher and his Head of Values team. For two years we've been without their hapless machinations brightening up our screens – had bosses at the Beeb decided that the mockumentary's antics made them look foolish? Perish the thought! Thankfully it seems they do have a sense of humour and are happy to poke fun at themselves because the sitcom is back for a third series this week. Once again Hugh Bonneville plays the nice but mostly completely ineffective Ian, who must find a way of making the BBC's new mantra of 'doing more of less' work. As ever, he is assisted – or more often than not hampered – by a motley group of individuals played by Sarah Parish, Jessica Hynes, Jason Watkins, Hugh Skinner and Nina Sosanya.

TUESDAY
Robson Green's Coastal Lives
ITV, 8pm
You don't need to trek to far-flung lands to witness incredible sights and people, as this series proves. This week the presenter travels to the island of Anglesey, off the north coast of Wales,†to meet a family who live in an ancient fisherman's cottage in the Menai Straits that they have restored. Robson also meets a woman who has left her stressful life in the city to set up a paddle boarding company on the island. And he chats a couple who have spent 12 years renovating their dream cliff top home with spectacular views over the Irish Sea.

WEDNESDAY
Bad Move
ITV, 8pm
Jack Dee may have started out as a stand-up comedian, but in recent years he's dabbled in the sitcom world. Power Monkeys, Josh and Lead Balloon. Now he's back with Bad Move, in which he stars alongside Kerry Godliman, who's best known for playing Hannah opposite Ricky Gervais in Derek. They play married couple Steve and Nicky, who have both been wed before but are feeling a little fed up with their lot. As a result, they decide to swap their city life for a new existence in the country - and soon with they hadn't. The first episodes of sitcoms are rarely hilarious, serving only to introduce the characters and the premise, but this one shows plenty of promise, and we look forward to seeing how it develops over its six-part run.

W1A, Monday, BBC2, 10pm

THURSDAY
The Supervet
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Noel Fitzpatrick and his team return to provide more cutting-edge animal care, beginning with a dramatic emergency. Staffordshire bull terrier Lulu has been hit by a car and had her pelvis smashed into more than 25 pieces. The professor's only option is to pin the larger pieces back together in an operation that will require all his expertise. Noel and his team also treat a giant schnauzer called Florence who has a sore knee, and a Jack Russell called Muffin who has a problem with her back legs.

FRIDAY
Celebrity 5 Go Motorhoming
Channel 5, 8pm
The warm and gentle four-part series reaches its destination this week and who would have thought that following five ageing stars of stage and screen in their motorhomes would be so much fun? The final leg of their journey sees Lesley Joseph, Don Warrington, Melvyn Hayes, Nick Heyward and Cleo Rocos reach the Isle of Skye, or as the Vikings called it, the Cloudy Isle – and the weather certainly lives up to its name. High on the spirit of adventure, the famous five are determined to have a good time and, over a cup of tea and an impromptu jam, the bond between actor Melvyn and 80s pop star Nick is cemented. Meanwhile, Lesley, Cleo and Don spend a day driving around Skye searching for the island's beauty spots, before Cleo rustles up a feast for the friends back in camp.

Celebrity MasterChef
BBC1, 8.30pm
The three remaining celebrities take part in the Masterchef final. In the first round, they must take on one of the toughest challenges in the competition – The Chef's Table, hosted by Michelin star chef Jason Atherton. Then, its back to the Masterchef kitchen to present a three-course meal to John and Gregg for the final time, before one of the celebrities will be crowned Masterchef champion. Last in the series.

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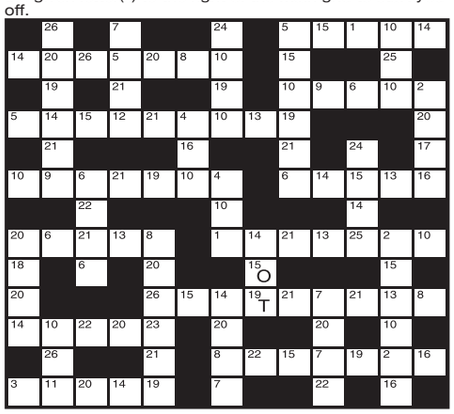
BRAIN GYM

No.447

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15 O
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19 T
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
L	J	K	U	V	H	G	O	Z	Y	X	N	I
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
F	E	W	C	S	R	B	M	Q	A	D	P	T

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

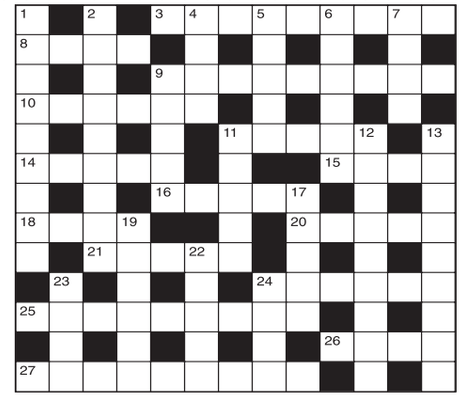
Cryptic Clues:

Across

3. Grieved because date with Cliff completely spoilt (9)
8. Get a dirty look and stagger back (4)
9. Strengthen power to check a horse (9)
10. He helps the golfer - make the bounder expire! (6)
11. Fear of adder (5)
14. Striker in a game (5)
15. Enjoy being similar (4)
16. Will marry - but not under their own steam (5)
18. Charge to a holy island (4)
20. Agree could be keen (5)
21. Have black wood by one (5)
24. The proletariat apparently consists of 1000 donkeys! (6)
25. Tried best room to rent (3-6)
26. There's some lack of coherence in this area (4)
27. I'd enter now as chairman (9)

Down

1. It's a crime to make letters strike-bound (9)
2. The way the boss speaks is over grave (9)
4. Released without charge (4)
5. Obviously not the outside shell of a big ship (5)
6. From the choir in our church or All Saints (6)
7. Engrave, and so on, with hot tip (4)
9. One side is correct, it would seem (5)
11. Wordy apportionment to husband (5)
12. Far from pleased with sets I'd dug out (9)
13. Newspapers indeed put one in low spirits! (9)
17. Exclude beard (5)
19. Sailor employs corrupt practices (6)
22. Famous now Edward has gone (5)
23. Well loved, but at some cost (4)
24. Intend to be stingy (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

3. Helplessness (9)
8. Implement (4)
9. Monetary (9)
10. Diminish (6)
11. Feeling (5)
14. Suffuse (5)
15. Box (4)
16. Attain (5)
18. Society (4)
20. In front (5)
21. Carrying chair (5)
24. Flowing (6)
25. Tasty (9)
26. Couple (4)
27. Verbosity (9)

Down

1. Sports (9)
2. Agreement (9)
4. Chief (4)
5. Speechify (5)
6. Surplus (6)
7. Applaud (4)
9. Ague (5)
11. Killed (5)
12. Short-lived (9)
13. Preying (9)
17. Pulls (5)
19. After (6)
22. Dress (5)
23. Nothing (4)
24. Ado (4)

Sudoku

		7						
		1	7		8	6		3
2	8						1	4
7			4		3			2
		9		1	2	4		
6			5		9			8
3	7						2	9
	2	4	8		6	3		
								6

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

4	6	5	9	3	8	7	2	1
1	2	8	6	4	7	3	9	5
9	7	3	5	2	1	4	6	8
3	9	6	4	7	5	8	1	2
8	5	2	1	6	3	9	4	7
7	1	4	8	9	2	5	3	6
2	8	1	3	5	4	6	7	9
5	4	9	7	1	6	2	8	3
6	3	7	2	8	9	1	5	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Cuff; 3 Barracks; 8 Ream; 9 Compared; 11 Intersection; 13 Adrift; 14 Stroll; 17 Contemporary; 20 Drawback; 21 Dido; 22 Suspense; 23 Onus. Down: 1 Cardinal; 2 Flatter; 4 Adores; 5 Repetition; 6 Cargo; 7 Side; 10 Profitable; 12 Playboys; 15 Ovation; 16 Smacks; 18 Orals; 19 Odes.
QUICK - Across: 1 Pail; 3 Reminder; 8 Loot; 9 Protrude; 11 Indoctrinate; 13 Torrid; 14 Simper; 17 Cheerfulness; 20 Breather; 21 Fair; 22 Desolate; 23 Else. Down: 1 Palliate; 2 In order; 4 Errors; 5 Intangible; 6 Doubt; 7 Reek; 10 Accidental; 12 Preserve; 15 Prevail; 16 Affect; 18 Heeds; 19 Abed.

Quiz

1. What does the acronym 'laser' stand for?
2. What do the initials AM stand for?
3. Who wrote The Chimes in 1844?
4. What type of bath did its inventor design for his 15-month-old rheumatoid arthritic son?
5. What is the capital of Zimbabwe?
6. What is a sidewinder?
7. Who is seventh in line to the throne?
8. What is a tamarack?
9. What is sometimes called the fourth estate?
10. Who wrote A Town Like Alice in 1949?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Robert Powell; 2 Carp; 3 1997; 4 Four; 5 Ling; 6 100; 7 Natalia Makarova; 8 Buckingham Palace; 9 La Traviata; 10 Joseph.

Niner: SUBALTERN

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5285673 gives a hostile outburst,
41679 gives a gesture,
52785 gives a hostile comment.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

A real taste of the Deep South

AN authentic taste of the American south, but in an unexpected place – Hickory's Smokehouse.

I was there not just to sample the food, but to experience the place. It had burned down almost a year ago, and greatly missed by the community, has been rebuilt again from the ground up.

Hickory's in Kingswinford is now every inch the typical Deep South American smokehouse, but with a few unique differences. Entering the restaurant you can't help but notice the homage to the fire that transformed it; a stencilled phoenix takes pride of place, painted on the centre wall.

BOOTHS

Cosy red leather-clad booths accommodate parties of up to 12, and we were seated in one that gives us one of the best views in the house. The snazzy bar to the right gives customers the chance to sample the cocktails, while the small cinema gives children the chance to watch a film before their food arrives.

Table tennis is on offer in the garden – the perfect antidote to the abundant portions and there's an open-pit cooking spicy sausage.

Though it's one of a chain of six restaurants around the country, it doesn't feel like one. The décor is kitsch and fun. It's comfortable and cheerful.

We were spoilt for choice when we checked out the menu. For starters, I went for the home-baked American pretzel with garlic dip, while my boyfriend David goes for the Louisiana seafood gumbo. When both dishes arrive we (by that I mean I) decide we'll share. The gumbo was a spicy paella-esque bowl of goodness, just the right size, complete with prawns, mussels, perfectly-cooked rice and a sauce with a spicy kick.

The waiting staff, attentive and pleasant can't do enough for us, and advise to have the Smokehouse Platter. Three different types of ribs, brisket, pulled pork with beans and in-house smoked sausage, it's served with skin-on-fries, coleslaw and pickles.

When it came out on a board almost as big as our kitchen worktop, we momentarily regretted ordering the starters. But the brisket was so tender, the Kansas-style barbeque glazed spare ribs so flavoursome, we couldn't get enough of them.

The staff are very knowledgable in not only where the meat comes from – a family butcher based in Flint – but also the best kind of hot sauce to go with it. David is braver than I am, trying the searingly hot psycho juice that immediately turned his face pink, while I stuck with the CaJohns sauce. There's so many to choose from, I lose count. But if condiments aren't really your thing (which they aren't to me) then the meat itself was tasty and tender enough to go without.

We asked for a break between courses, and the staff were more than happy to oblige, praising our attempt to finish off the main. But there was a dessert I'd had my eye on from the start. We ordered the cinnamon sugar-coated churros and I go for the S'mores. This is described as a crushed ginger nut biscuit base topped with melted chocolate and toasted marshmallow. Upon first bite, it seems incredibly rich, almost sickly. But three bites in and I was addicted.

Next time I think I'll opt for a smaller main, just to make sure I fully enjoy it and finish the other courses. But then again, they do offer doggy bags so you can take away a bit of Louisiana with you. The bill came to £60.95 – not half bad for more than half an animal and two other courses besides. JESSICA LABHART

Hickory's specialises in meat platters

Back where it belongs – Hickory's in Kingswinford

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Modern home must be viewed to be appreciated

This well presented two-bedroomed modern semi-detached house in Oxford Way, Tipton, really needs to be viewed in order to be fully appreciated.

It is for sale through Skitts at £130,000.

The property that is located a short distance away from local schools, amenities and travel links.

It also benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing throughout.

The accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, a downstairs WC, two bedrooms, a bathroom, a rear garden and off road parking.

In more detail from the entrance hall you enter the lounge. This has a bay window to the front, a radiator and stairs to the first floor.

Having a double glazed window to the rear, the kitchen has a door into the rear garden, a radiator, a range of wall and base units, a sink with a drainer and mixer tap and an oven with a four ring gas hob and an extractor fan over.

The guest WC has a wash hand basin and a low level WC.

The first floor landing has a window to the side of the property.

Bedroom one has a radiator and a double glazed window to the rear.

Bedroom two has a double glazed window to the front, a radiator and a door into an airing cupboard.

The bathroom has a bath with a shower over, a wash hand basin, a ow level WC and a radiator.

To the rear of the property is the garden. This has a patio area and steps to a grassed lawn.

Skitts estate agents began in 1979 as a partnership and has proudly remained so for over 37 years.

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TIPTON £130,000

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Semi-detached property on a beautiful estate

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£160,000

This property in St Helens Avenue, Tipton, is on the market with Skitts for £160,000.

This well presented three bedroom semi-detached home is located on this beautiful estate a short distance away from local schools, amenities and travel links.

Having the benefit of gas central heating and double glazing throughout the property has an extended garage and off-road parking.

The accommodation briefly comprises lounge/dining room, kitchen, conservatory, downstairs WC, three bedrooms, bathroom, en-suite, extended garage and off-road parking.

For further information, or to book a viewing, call Skitts on 0121 520 2255.

Five-bed detached home has separate annexe

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£824,950 <<<

A magnificent five-bedroomed detached residence with a separate annexe in Strensham Hill, Moseley, Birmingham is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at £824,950.

The frontage has ample parking and a garden area.

It has a grand entrance hallway and two receptions rooms off. The rear garden is accessible via French double doors. The second reception room overlooks the frontage. The spectacular open plan kitchen/diner area has a separate utility zone and a breakfast island.

On the first floor is large master bedroom with an en-suite, three more bedrooms and a bathroom. The second floor has two loft bedrooms.

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A charming modern two-bedroomed apartment

A lovely modern two-bedroomed apartment in Cardinal Close, Edgbaston, lies in a desirable location.

It is for sale through Liberty Estates at £144,950.

Positioned on the second floor, its accommodation briefly comprises of a spacious hallway, reception room, fitted kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms. It has double glazing and electric heating, communal grounds and parking.

EDGBASTON
£144,950

The building is set back from the road. Stairs lead up to the second floor.

In more detail the entrance hall has hardwood flooring and pull down ladders to a loft.

The reception room has a window to the front and laminate flooring and a storage cupboard.

The kitchen includes an electric integrated oven, electric hob, cooker hood, plumbing for automatic washing machine and dishwasher, an electric heater and part tiled walls, ceiling light point.

Bedroom one has hardwood flooring while bedroom two has laminate flooring.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal home for you, contact Liberty Estates on their telephone number 0121 565 1010.

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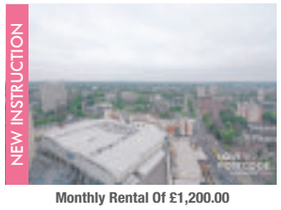

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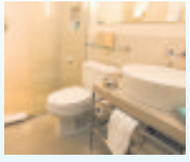

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0121 420 1582
NO CALL OUT CHARGE
Mobile Number: 07947 839451
allweatherroofingwestmids.co.uk
allweatherroofinguk@outlook.com

Tom Corbett Roofing Services
Telephone: 0121 5800915 Mobile: 07931 344199
• Flat Roof Repaired or Renewed
• Slate & Tile Repairs
• Ridge, Hip & Chimney Repointing
• Gutter Replacement & Cleaning
30 YEARS' EXPERIENCE
FREE QUOTATIONS

PRM RAPID ROOFING
COMPLETE ROOFING SERVICES
Flat Roof EPDM Rubber Roofing Specialists
• Roof Repairs • Slate Tile Repairs
• Chimney Repairs • Felting • Guttering
• UPVC Fascias/Soffits • All pointing work
Free call out and estimates
07958 274019 01922 693047

A1 Little Job Man
(Part of the Imperial Residential Group)
Over 35 years experience
• Fast Roof Repairs • Felt Work & Guttering
• New Roofs Chimneys & Valleys
• uPVC Fascias & Guttering FREE Quotes
• All Building Work Undertaken
• All Work Guaranteed • All Areas Covered
0121 553 3020

Skip Hire

RUSSELL'S SKIPS

MINI/MIDI SKIPS
(0121) 520 3388
07721 387990

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

funeral directors

Turn To Us For Help and Support

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

- Est. 1907
- 24 hour service

G. Gibbs
Funeral Directors
44 All Saints Way
West Bromwich B71 1PZ
0121 553 0442
Dignity
Part of Dignity plc. A British Company.

lost & found

OSCAR
Is between 2 and 3 years old, neutered and microchipped. He is mostly black with white paws, white bib under chin and white on his tummy. He went missing from Wimblebury near Cannock on Sunday 3rd September. Please check houses, cars, garages, gardens (he likes to climb and hide, so bushes,trees and cupboards please).
Any sightings or info call 07922308169 or 01543 459817

2 Leisure Time

car boot sales

CAR BOOT SALES!
Every Sunday
and Bank Holiday Monday
Muckley Corner, Hall Lane, Lichfield, WS14 0BE
Booters £4
6.00am-2pm
07538 842842

INDOOR CAR BOOT SALE Every Wednesday, 10am - 2pm. Brook Street Community Centre, Tipton DY4 9DD. 07958 684 716

caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW 35x12 caravans from £10,000.Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further? www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED. Can collect asap. Caravan wanted. Call me on 07717 090817.

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
CASH * WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07825 325 913

sports & leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

holidays

travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

mind, body & soul

massage

MOBILE Aromatherapy Massage Therapist Home / Hotel. To book appointments call 07437 569187.

what's on

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS VINTAGE FAIR
CORNBOW HALL, HAGLEY STREET, HALESOWEN, B63 3AT
15TH SEP & 13TH OCT
8.00AM - 3.30PM
07783 680 627

BOOK FAIR Kinver Community Centre, DY7 6ER,inc postcards. **Sunday 17th September**, Est 1979, Waverley, Next antique Fair 1st October. Stalls available for all. Home made refreshments. Call 0121 550 4381

markets

BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET OPEN EVERY SUNDAY
Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6
07889 975701 All hard standing

3 Home & Services

furniture

Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
Reg charity number: 1011712
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

FURNITURE NOT SOLD? Donate it to Katharine House Hospice. We collect for free. Telephone Cannock 01543 466885, Stafford 01785 247630, House clearance service 01785 760715.

THREE SEATER sofa, Burgundy draylon, very good condition. Rise/ recliner chair, full working order, free on collection. 01543 572643.

household appliances

A ONE OFF BIG SALE
Cookers, Fires, Autos, Tumble dryers, Built in ovens, Hobs, Fridge freezers, lots more at low prices.
01902 403770
Past & Present
24 - 26 church street, Bilston (opposite town hall).

in your garden

BLOXWICH FENCING
Supply and Fit or DIY
Credit cards taken • Free quotes WS3 2BQ
01922 712184

6x5 Lap Panels £17 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd or 01922 712184

items for sale

ASH RECLAMATION
All reclaimed building materials
UPVC doors and windows
New and Used
Gatehouse Trading Est. Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
01543 453222
07956 627367

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

GARAGE SALE PART 2
Furniture, China, Household, Clothes, Records, Handbags, Pet Stuff etc.
Saturday, September 9, 10am.
19 Lodge Road, Pelsall, WS4 1DE.
07973 705739.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

A Highly Recommended Lady Buyer
Cash Paid **£300+** per ounce for 9 carat Gold.
Any amount collected!
Sovereigns £200+ each, *gold coins*, ***pre - 47 silver*** *coins, watches, costume jewellery, porcelain, any* ***oriental items****, any silver items, War* ***medals*** *military etc.*
Call: 01922 495066 or 07971 783206

ARTIST PAINTS brushes, easel, air brush paint, signwriters paint, and materials. Cash paid, Cannock area please. 07581 684930.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED
VINTAGE TOYS
Star Wars, He-Man, Ghost Busters, NinjaTurtles, Corgi or Dinky.
All vintage toys considered.
Good prices paid.
Unleash the cash in your loft.
Call Tony on 07812 903338.

WANTED
VINTAGE TOYS
Starwars, He-Man, Ghost Busters, NinjaTurtles, Corgi or Dinky.
All vintage toys considered, good prices paid.
Unleash the cash in your loft.
Call Tony on 07812 903338.

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

CLIENT COMPUTERS Certified technician and microsoft partner. Repair and maintain laptops and pcs. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi, windows problem etc. Laptops available. 0121 556 9481

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST CCTV cameras fitted/tv wallmount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers Autos Fridges Vacs and Micros. Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

bathrooms

BATHROOM DESIGN All bathrooms fitted, tiling, flooring, complete bathrooms: 07850 382548.

building services

AD DAMP PROOFING
APPROVED CONTRACTOR
All damp problems, roofing, building & plastering work
FREE QUOTES
07538 118034 or 01902 752161

G & D BUILDERS
Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
All work guaranteed
07837 994465 / 01902 579592

building supplies

QUALITY DOORS AND HARDWOOD FLOORING @ low prices. Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

carpentry & joinery

SPR CARPENTRY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £370. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

damp proof control

JUST DAMP PROOFING
All Areas Covered
Sovereign approved damp proofer
Up to 30 years
Backed Guarantee available
Call 07903 029768

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards ***£695***
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

gardening services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

H. COOPER & SON Landscaping / garden maintenance. No job too small, Free Quotes: 07904 929632.

J&B TREE CARE Landscape and Jetwashing Services. All Pesticide /Fungicide work. Free fixed quotes: 07786 166856/ 01922 449268.

CLASSIFIEDS BOOSTS BUSINESS!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."
Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

gas fitting

GH PLUMBING
Free Quotes, Gas safe services. Luxury bathrooms Supplied & fitted. Landlord Certs. Service & repairs, power flushing, boiler replacements, full central heating systems
07921 800665 | www.ghplumbingltd.co.uk

GAS SERVICES
- Boilers • Cookers
- Fires • Gas Checks
- Landlord Certificates
- Gas Leaks Traced

Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

HANDY MAN - Most trades, plumbing, heating, gardening & decorating. Gutter clean no ladders, free quotes. 07850 559315.

HANDYMAN SERVICE
Grass/ Hedge Cutting
Drives & Patios Powerwashed
Fence Repairs and General Handyman Service
Call simon: 07593 544566

house clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

kitchen fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

lock services

LOCKRITE local father and daughter locksmiths, lock-outs, broken locks, UPVC specialist, 24hr service. 01922 780078.

painters / decorators

C&D DECORATING City & Guilds / Wallpapering, Tiling and Flooring. Free quotes, call 07973 286288.

LADY DECORATOR Full house or one wall to customer requirements. Free quotes call: 07522 643706.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01922 606503 / 07519 694516

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

MINT PLASTERING & rendering 30 yrs exp. All work guaranteed. 01922 606503 or 07519 694516.

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbing & heating

ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN
No job too small or large.
Call Will for a free quote
07521 411108

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Free quotes call: 07540 950588.

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

removals

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

KT REMOVALS 12 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

roofing

We specialise in:
New Roofing, Re Roofing, Leak Repairs, Emergency Repairs, Lead Work, Tiling and Slating.
07476 834512 0121 4204374
www.stoppsandpage.co.uk

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

AAA SKIP HIRE All sizes available, competitive prices. Call: 01922 711411(option 2) or 07592 940556.

STONES SKIP HIRE 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 500677 07738 851601

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

BSA PRE-CHARGED SUPER 10 AIR RIFLE .22
Not FAC.
Fair condition.
Comes with fitted Bi-Pods.
2 Buddy bottles.
Bisley carrying bag.
Spare magazines.
Nikko Sterling 4/40 As Scope. Moderator.
£650.
Call 07889 756854.

POODLE DOG SPECIALIST
Clipping and Grooming.
Free Quotes Call:
07855 405022 or 01543 876145

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

business directory

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

accommodation to let

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios
from **£90pw***
Rooms
from **£65pw***
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

FLAT TO LET Over 55, DSS and pet friendly, Burntwood / Hednesford area. 03701 924897 / 03701 924891.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
FAST 4 Your House CASH
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
You agree the price, we buy the house...
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500 30 yrs
www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

CASH NOW Wolverhampton properties FOR YOUR HOUSE
UP TO £25,000 CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition
We can buy your house in 2 days Terms applicable
0800 389 6788 01902 628047
Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week

I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE
24 hours Free phone or landline 0800 783 2822 01384 226086
1 Pay 100% of purchase price
Call now for the best price on your house
• Guaranteed Offer • Free Solicitors • Any Condition • No Fees* *Terms Apply
GUARANTEED £ Dewmark Homes

pink run by women
sell quick
• No Fees* • Any Property • Any condition • Free confidential service
• Any area* • Repossessions stopped • Deceased estates
0800 044 8109 Call free 24 hours 01922 689023
* subject to terms

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising! Our directory page on expressandstar.com has generated extra activity on our website."
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
For great business results call 01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

7 Jobs

building & construction

AMP SCAFFOLDING - Scaffolding gangs - Carded Drivers & Non carded Scaffolders. - We can help. Call 0121 580 0389.

engineering

PATTERNMAKERS / CNC MACHINISTS required. Langley, Oldbury area. Flexible hours, excellent rates of pay + overtime. Narvik Ltd. Simon 07887 856409

hair & beauty

GENTLEMANS HAIRDRESSER (Barber) required.
Also
SCHOOL LEAVER for Apprenticeship, Quinton area 0121 422 4104

nursing & carers

YOUNG DISABLED MOTHER in West Bromwich requires a Female Carer to assist with daily living skills including personal care and assisting in cooking Caribbean meals. 49 hours per week, open to job share. Rates of pay vary between weekdays and weekends. This advert complies with the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975. Must have a DBS check or willing to have one.
Telephone 0121 558 5555 and quote SR for an application pack.

full time - general

legrand
DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL BIAS)

Legrand Electric Limited is a manufacturing Company, employing over 35,000 staff worldwide, who are global specialists in electrical and digital building infrastructures.

A position has arisen for a Design and Development Engineer, who will be based at the West Bromwich site (Midlands).

Key Duties:
- To research, design & develop and validate new products and cost improvement of current designs.
- Specify and develop the next generation of power, cable management and wiring device products by taking account of marketing requirements to produce functional products of new or improved design to comply with the latest National and International standards.
- To produce the technical files as required by the low voltage directive for power, cable management & wiring device products.
- Follow design & development procedures as required by ISO9001 and Legrand's ECO design policy.
- To manage type testing, test records and safety.
- To provide Purchasing department with technical details for the purchase of parts from external suppliers.
- To liaise with marketing / publicity to check the technical content of catalogues and technical manuals.
- Provide support to the technical support department on electrical or mechanical matters relating to company products.
- Suitably experienced in the use of 2D and 3D CAD.

Job Competencies/Key Skills:
- Educated to Degree/HND level in an electrical engineering discipline.
- Membership of the IET is preferred.
- Have a working knowledge of UK Wiring Regulations, associated national and international standards.
- Have knowledge of Wiring Devices and Power Distribution Products.
- Be competent in the use of AUTOCAD/INVENTOR and 3-D Modelling systems.
- Previous electrical design / testing work in low voltage cable management, power distribution or wiring device product manufacturing environment.
- Have good IT skills (spreadsheets, engineering databases, presentation tools).
- Be able to communicate well at all levels inside and outside the company.
- Be able to travel within and outside the UK, and work away from base location as appropriate.

Excellent benefits package offered, including, but not limited to:
- Company Pension scheme
- Company car
- 25 days holiday
- Life Assurance cover
- Competitive salary, depending on skills and experience

Working hours: 40 hours per week, 8:00am - 4:30pm (Monday - Friday)

Written applications (covering letter and CV) to: Baljit Kaur, HR Advisor, Great King Street North, Birmingham, West Midlands, B19 2LF or; Baljit.Kaur@legrand.co.uk

We are seeking, for immediate start,
MULTIDROP LWB VAN DRIVERS AND 7.5T DRIVERS
with CPC and Digicard for deliveries and collections in set postcode areas.

Working for our major customer you will be delivering parcels and will be required to liaise face to face with customers on a daily basis so excellent communications skills are essential to the role.

You must be over 25 years old with at least 2 years of driving experience due to insurance purposes. 7.5t must have C1 entitlement on your driver's licence along with a valid driver's qualification card (CPC) and a valid Tachograph Card.

We offer competitive rates of pay with Van Drivers OTE £22,500 PA and 7.5t Drivers OTE £25,000 PA after completion of initial training. We also offer 28 days holiday per annum and a company uniform will be provided. There is also a chance to progress to an LGV licence for the right candidates.

*** Interviews will be arranged via email and take place in Birmingham ***
Apply Rob@ETAGroup.co.uk
This is a permanent position, please no agency.

RECRUIT THE RIGHT CANDIDATE EVERY TIME WITH MNA

FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY FOR ONLY **£59**+VAT

PRICE INCLUDES:
- 5 line advert (18-20 words)
- Two night package in Express & Star on Thursday and Saturday
- One week in local Chronicle of your choice
- Four week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com

For more information call
Tracey Thompson on **01902 319645** or email:
tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk
MNA Recruitment

Public Service Vehicle (PSV) Driver
Wednesbury / Wolverhampton Based

Accessible Transport Group is the leading provider of accessible transport services in the West Midlands. We have 8 depots, operate 600 vehicles and employ over 950 staff for our Ring and Ride service, home-to-school contracts and Igo bus routes.

Most importantly, we make a difference to peoples lives every day by providing a safe, reliable door-to-door service for those who are unable to use conventional public transport.

You will be required to drive a bus collecting passengers from a scheduled bus route. This is a section 22 Bus Route. Daily duties include collecting fares and maintaining the vehicle to a clean, tidy and safe standard.

Applicants must have driving experience and a clean driving licence with a PCV category. You should be adaptable, be able to follow standard operating procedures, enjoy working in a logical and systematic manner, be organised, a good listener, approachable and friendly. A good area knowledge is advantageous.

Benefits Include;
• 4 day shifts in a week • Life insurance cover • New vehicles • Full uniform
If you are interested,
Please apply in writing enclosing your CV to:

Wednesbury Depot, Martin Powell Ring and Ride, Unit 2, Western Way Industrial Park, Wednesbury, WS10 7BW

Wolverhampton Depot, Duncan Ashlee, Pool Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4HN

ATG
Accessible Transport Group is an equal opportunities employer

The Poplars Nursing Home

We are looking to recruit the following

REGISTERED NURSE/RGN
Full-time (Nights) x 2 | Full-time (Days) x 1
£15.50 - £17.00 per hour depending on experience.
Suitable experience in nursing home setting is essential.

NURSING ASSISTANT
£8.50- 9.50 per hour
Minimum NVQ Level 3 Health & Social Care & at least 2 years' experience as a Senior Care Assistant or equivalent

CARE ASSISTANT
National Vocational Qualification level II in Care, or equivalent.

ACTIVITY COORDINATOR
Full time 9am till 5pm
(some weekends may be required)
£7.50 - £8.10 - hourly (based upon experience)

PAYROLL / FINANCE CLERK
Experienced in payroll and finance admin. 16hrs p/wk.
£8-9.50ph.

UNIT MANAGER
Exciting new role. Experienced enthusiastic person required to assist in setting up and running a new 11 bed unit for elderly challenging behaviour/ Mental health.
£28-35K p/a.
To apply email your CV to poplarscare@hotmail.co.uk

CV MATCHING. IT'S QUICK, EASY AND FREE

Real opportunities for you

jobs.expressandstar.com
REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

CLASSIC JAGUAR SOVEREIGN 5.3 SERIES 111 HE.
1984. Owned since 2002. Garaged most of its life. Air Con. CD Player. Power Steering. Leather trim. Central Locking. 89,162 miles. MoT July 2018.
£3,750 ono.
07403 637235.

HONDA JAZZ 1.4 DSI SE
2006, 73,600 miles, silver. One owner. Service history. Long MoT. Possibly cleanest one around.
£1,795.
01902 674550.

PEUGEOT 207 CC
GT Sport, 1600
Electric Convertible, 2007 reg, genuine 68,000 miles, lovely condition inside and out, many new parts, timing chain and exhaust, MoT March 2018, EML light just come on (says polution sensor fault) need garage space, hence, £1,499 ono.
07930 550544.

cars under £1500

CITROEN C3 2006, 68,000 Ms.fdsh, long MoT,1400 petrol,new cam belt,2 owners.1st to see will buy£1,095.00 ono 01785296633

BARGAIN
HONDA CIVIC 1.6SE EXECUTIVE AUTO
5-dr, 51 reg., 80,000 miles, FSH, black, leather trim, MoT July 2018.
£1,295 ono
07702 172843.

BARGAIN
MERCEDES 1.5 ELEGANCE SE
March 2005 new model, Petrol, 5dr, 72,000 miles, fsh, one previous owner.
£1,350
07405 215217

NISSAN MICRA
1994, 1.0XL, 5-dr, 65K miles, pristine, unmarked conditon, MoT'd, good tyres, perfect runner, but tends to overheat, **hence £100. To good to break. 01785 713862.**

BARGAIN
PEUGEOT 206 XL
03 Reg., 4Dr, 65,000 miles, excellent condition, garaged, service history, MoT.
£625.
01922 492321.

FOR A QUICK SALE
VAUXHALL VECTRA BREEZE
Black, 1800 petrol, 2005, MoT to July 2018, 89,700 miles, some service history, tow bar and roof bars, good runner, very clean condition.
£850 o.n.o.
07866 406237.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

JHL Transport Ltd of 15 Leslie Drive, Tipton, DY4 0BA is applying for a licence to use 3 Morgan Close, Ashmore Lake Business Park, Willenhall, WV12 4LH as an operating centre for ONE goods vehicle and ONE trailer.
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.
Dated September 14, 2017.

EDWARD THEODOR JOWETT
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 145 Thimblemill Road, Smethwick B67 6LR and (last known address) Flat 46 Queensridge Court, 82 Queensway, Oldbury B68 0LE, who died on 16/02/2017, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 22/11/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Nicholls Brimble,
Grays Court, 15 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9NT.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
The Borough Council of Sandwell (George Street, West Bromwich) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2017, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along George Street, West Bromwich.
The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 06/10/2017. There will be a signed diversion for traffic: Spon Lane, West Bromwich Ringway and High Street. Purpose – to enable safe demolition of former West Bromwich Spring Factory buildings.

DEREK PHIPPS
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 217 POUND ROAD, OLDBURY, West Midlands, United Kingdom B68 8NF, who died on 07/10/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 15/11/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Maureen Ann Hardy, The London Gazette (4301), PO Box 3584, Norwich NR7 7WD.

10 Personals

personal

FREE TEXT MESSAGES from women wanting discreet ADULT FUN! Call 01216 202445 for full details. Discretion assured!

Angels
The largest adult superstore in the Midlands
• Adult Toys • Sexy Lingerie
Cinema Now Open
Unit 5 Frederick Street, Walsall WS2 9NE
01922 635544

FRIENDLESS MALE
Aged 59, seeking special friend, any nationality, for days out , cinema, companionship. All replies answered. Box Number P20949 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

FUN LOVING GUY
65 years old, 6ft tall, medium build, N/S, active, OHAC, no ties
WLTM a slim, active lady N/S, for friendship / relationship. Photo please, will return.
Box Number P20942, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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ClassifiedAds

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To Place your ad by text: Simply text REG followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to 80098 FREE Standard Network rates apply.
To Reply to members call: 0906 500 3955 calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge. Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do key-it-in promptly when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.
To Reply by text: Text.. REPLY26 (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to 80098 eg: REPLY26 123456 hi get in touch... then send to 80098 Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.
Been left a message? Pickup your replies on: 0906 500 3957 calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.
YOU can now Date ONLINE or via your mobile just visit: http://dating.expressandstar.com
THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet you.. visit.. http://dating.expressandstar.com

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

DAWN, attractive, easygoing, WLTM mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428417**

HELLO, my name is Pia, I am a very petite, kind and respectful Asian girl, hoping to meet an older white man. I'm 23yrs old and have just moved her. **Text Only. Box: 4177099**

SALLY young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No; 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

PAT, 69, young looking, looking for someone for friendship, interests are going out for meals, reading and walking. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428461**

SASKA, kind hearted Asian lady, single and still living with family so seeking very discreet relationship with strong minded man. I am 29yrs but like mature experienced men. **Text Only. Box: 4047094**

ANGELA, attractive 66yr old free minded and spirited lady. Genuine with varied interests seeks gent 65+. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428485**

JANE, new to area, hoping to meet an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette with boyish leggy figure. N/S with GSOH. I've a good job and small flat which I own. **Text Only. Box: 4099268**

MARIA 44, leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. **Tel No; 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428447**

TRACY, 68yrs, recently retired and has time on her hands. Would love to meet a much much much younger chap for carefree times. **Text Only. Box: 4006039**

HEATHER, 54yrs, slim brunette with petite figure, loves keep fit. Seeks chap for nights out, fun times, must be honest and kind. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428491**

MIA, attractive married lady from Birmingham are, looking to meet a discreet gent, any age, any area for fun times. I am 49yrs old but look younger. **Text Only. Box: 4079581**

VICTORIA, 46yrs, bubbly outgoing nurse, petite pretty brunette. WLTM N/S man, any age, must have GSOH and be kind. ACA. Or text. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428489**

TINA, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure with average looks. I want a similar man, GSOH looks unimportant. Age is but a number. I have no car but can accommodate. **Text Only. Box: 4145368**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

TERESA, friendly lady with GSOH, curvy build and attractive looks, 50 something, seeking romantic male 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428383**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

KATHERINE 39, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428403**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

PAM, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427753**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

SUE, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549**

CARING, young at heart lady seeks tall caring gent with GSOH for friendship, outings and car drives. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6042252**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

SALLY young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No; 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

JANE, 52yrs genuine blue eyed blonde lady WLTM romantic gent for potential relationship. ACA/Text answered so please reply. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428379**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851**

ARE you a gent with GSOH 60-70 and looking for some fun then call me, Leah, I'm 57yrs, slim, attractive and looking for fun. ACA. Or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428381**

ATTRACTIVE lady, young at heart, would like to meet genuine caring guy for coffee and chats, plus days out. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6035338**

TAMARA, 44yrs, beautiful Indian lady seeks a Muslim gent 40+ **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428147**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 427533**

ATTRACTIVE widow, loves life, 60s music, walking and fun. Hoping to meet a similar minded gent 60-80 for life's adventures. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428371**

NICOLA, 37yrs mixed race beauty, just moved to the area from London so a bit lonely. Looks unimportant must have GSOH and be kind. ACA/text answered **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428369**

WANTED, submissive gent by attractive lady 51yrs, please call if you want to know more. Ata **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428367**

LINDA, 48yrs, young looking blonde lady, slim and attractive. Hoping to meet new men friends, call and let's see what happens. **Tel No; 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428377**

MARGARET, attractive blonde widow, living alone and hoping to find a nice gentleman soulmate. I have lots to offer so please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428375**

JOY, mid 50s independent lady, brunette, loves dining out, seeking gent of any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428373**

LADY, 63, WLTM a gentleman of similar age, for friendship and outings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428029**

SALLY young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No; 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

CHRISTINE, 60 something lady, blue eyed blonde. Sincere, solvent and kind. Call me if you are interested in meeting up. Looks unimportant. Must be N/S. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428155**

I am a 57-year-old lady, 5ft 8ins tall, short brownish hair. I am of medium build, outgoing, caring and WLTM similar male. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6024848**

ATTRACTIVE lady 61yrs young. Looking for friendship, maybe more with genuine gent. I'm feminine and curvy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428157**

ATTRACTIVE lonely widow, mid 70s seeking gent for friendship. Pls call or text. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427879**

Single Men

JEFF, 60s, tall, fit, young outlook, N/S, car owner, seeks similar lady for friendship, outings out etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428175**

FUN loving Irish man, seeks relationship, for fun times and going out. Please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428077**

CANNOCK Chase male, 70, N/S, 5ft10, single, modern, WLTM slim, attractive, broad minded lady, for casual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428207**

VERY fit, elderly widower, loves walking, bird watching, exploring Europe, WLTM a lady for companionship. Please reply via box number. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428171**

MALE would like to meet local female 50/60 for mutual friendship. I'm easygoing and have many interests. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5071056**

MALE 20s, chilled out and happy in life looking for woman to share life with. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6034839**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE, late 60s, N/S, retired, 5ft9, slim build, enjoys holidays abroad, weekends away, travel, meals out. Looking to meet female, N/S, who enjoys similar interests, to share good times together, for friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428219**

COLIN 72, from Burntwood, looking for loving lady for days out, holidays and company. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 4880436**

I am Kev, 57, looking for a lady in my life. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6023170**

MALE, 20s, seeks NSA fun with female. I love a laugh, age isn't important. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6042304**

MALE 46, genuine and honest and very caring looking for a LTR with lady. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 5422168**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

HI my name is Jay. I'm looking for a lady to have a lovely evening with, maybe once or twice a week. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427927**

TALL, dark, attractive male, 56, 6ft, WLTM an attractive female, any age, for discreet fun and intimate times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428109**

MALE, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

JACK 23, single, tall, young looking guy, kind and respectful, seeking female age/looks not important for mutual NSA fun. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6026038**

MALE 64, fit, non-smoker, looking for NSA fun with lady, any age. I am kind and caring but miss the touch of a woman. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6025714**

MALE, 50, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783**

GENTLEMAN, kind, considerate, tactile, thoughtful and caring, hobbies include growing Fuschias and vintage tractors, looking for a country girl, someone with no plans of grandeur. Truth and trust number 1 as I trust you so you tell me the truth, and vice versa. Looking for someone to hold and love forever. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427791**

MIKE, male, 61, seeks black or Asian lady, any age for adult fun, maybe more. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6010228**

SHAUN, 50, honest, reliable, OHOC, employed, animal lover, likes walks in the country, meals out in country pubs, walking my dogs, looking for my soul mate. If you would like to know more get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427497**

TALL, dark, attractive male, 57, WLTM an attractive female for discreet daytime fun, 25-50. Can travel. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425759**

COLIN, five foot eight, blue eyes, bundle of fun to be around, likes growing fuchsias for showing, vintage tractor for showing, weekends away, going out and staying in WLTM a lady for friendship/LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420089**

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Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
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Plenty to feel passionate about in latest Honda Civic

The Mark X Civic looks more sporty

By Ian Donaldson

Bigger and smaller, much smaller, might be the mantra for the tenth generation of Honda Civic, now rolling off the Swindon production line in five-door hatch form for sale all over the world.

Let's start with bigger. This latest Civic, subject of the most thorough development programme in the company's history, is longer (by 13cms), wider (by 3cms) and lower by 2cms than the outgoing model.

That means it has a boot as big as anything in the sector – think Focus and Golf – at a cavernous 478 litres, and it can of course be made almost van-like by flipping forward the split rear seatback.

The height reduction has consequences greater than making Civic mark X look more sporty.

It means there is no longer room for the fuel tank beneath the front seats and that means farewell to the clever rear seat Honda called it 'magic') which flipped cleverly to let you pack a smallish bicycle behind the driver. The newly located fuel tank has to go somewhere and now takes too much room for the magic to persist.

As well as stretching the tape measure further, the latest Civic looks much bigger than before, keeping enough of the previous car's feel – that split rear screen to the fore – to maintain the Civic-ness, but adding big false air intakes at the front and matching rear outlets which add a new note of defiant in-yer-face appeal, if you like that sort of thing.

There's plenty of room for a six footer in the back

Inside, there's been a bit of a revolution, and all for the better if you value a dashboard that now looks sensible, sober and easily read in place of the old car's mildly arcade game vibe.

There is room for a six-footed to sit behind his twin brother, with enough leg and head room to give the new Civic the feel of a car above the class of the old one.

Now for the smaller, much smaller part of the new Civic equation. Most of them will be sold with an engine that features just three cylinders and displaces a mere one litre. Honda top brass know it's going to be a bit of a sell to persuade potential buyers that something as modestly volumed can replace either the old 1.4 or rarer 1.8 litre petrol units from the previous car.

They believe that their new baby's 127 turbocharged horses are more than up to the job and will use less petrol too. And they're right; driving on a testing hill route revealed a car that pulls with a lusty growl if provoked and never felt even a touch anaemic, helped along by the crispest of changes from a new six-speed gearbox.

A dash readout of 41mpg promised an economical life on more level roads and in gentler hands. A CO2 figure of 106g/km means £140 road tax the first year and the same annually thereafter.

Honda think seven out of ten buyers of petrol Civics will take this new 1.0 litre version but there is also a new 1.5 available, adding a hefty £2,300 to the bill but behaving almost like a mini GTI, thanks to 179 horsepower available at the push of a right foot. It showed 38mpg over the hilly route and will suit the sort of younger buyer Honda hopes to attract to a model that has a reputation as a solid retirement choice in the UK and needs to tilt the age profile down a bit. Its 133g/km will mean £200 in the first year, falling back to £140 in following years.

For the moment new Civic prices start at £18,335 for an entry level SE and top out with the £27,295 Prestige with larger 1.5 petrol engine and automatic transmission.

All new suspension, newly independent at the rear, brings a ride that verges on the soft (but comfy) but the push of a button in some higher grade versions stiffens things up and makes the car feel much more playful on the corners.

Honda has caught the current wheeze of offering the Civic in only one paint finish – rallye red – that does not add to the bottom line. Everything else means finding another £525.

Still, there's plenty to feel passionate about in this latest Civic...

Oak Garage .co.uk

Oak Garage your local RAC Approved Dealer.

Low Mileage
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14 Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i Icon Red Only 6000 miles £8,295
14 Kia Venga Hatchback 1.6 2 5dr Auto Silver Only 11,000 miles £8,995
14 Peugeot 3008 Diesel Estate 1.6 HDi Active 5dr Silver Only 13,000 miles £9,795
11 Renault Grand Modus Hatchback 1.6 Dynamique 5dr Auto Red Only 11,000 miles £4,995

Citroen
13 Citroen C1 Hatchback 1.0i VTR 5dr Black 32k £4,495
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11 Citroen C4 Grand Picasso Diesel Estate 1.6 HDi VTR+ 5dr Blue 84k £5,495
11 Citroen C4 Picasso Diesel 1.6 HDi VTR+ Silver 45k £6,195
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08 Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto White 64k £8,995
57 Citroen C6 Diesel Saloon 2.7 HDi V6 Exclusive 4dr Auto Grey 73k £7,995
59 Citroen C6 Diesel Saloon 2.7 HDi V6 Exclusive 4dr Auto Silver £6,995
07 Citroen C6 Diesel Saloon 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto Black £7,495
14 Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Air Exclusive Red 19k £11,995
63 Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi Air VTR+ Red 26k £10,495

Ford
14 Ford C-max Diesel Estate 1.6 TDCi Titanium 5dr Blue 20k £9,995
11 Ford C-max Estate 1.6 Titanium Silver 48k £7,295
58 Ford Fiesta Hatchback 1.25 Zetec 3dr (82) Red 23k £4,995
13 Ford Fiesta Hatchback 1.6 Zetec Powershift Yellow 32k £7,495
63 Ford Focus Diesel 1.6 TDCi 115 Zetec Black 32k £8,295
14 Ford Grand C-Max Diesel 1.6 TDCi Titanium Black 53k £9,795
14 Ford Grand C-Max Diesel Estate 1.6 TDCi Zetec Blue 30k £9,495
14 Ford S-max Diesel 2.0 TDCi 140 Zetec Powershift Blue 45k £10,995

Nissan
14 Nissan Qashqai 1.2 DiG-T Acenta (Smart Vision Pack) Black 33k £11,495
60 Nissan Qashqai Diesel 1.5 DCi (110) Tekna Beige 48k £9,295
57 Nissan Qashqai Hatchback 2.0 Acenta Grey 67k £4,995

Peugeot
63 Peugeot 2008 1.6 e-HDi Active EGC Brown 21k £8,295
63 Peugeot 208 Hatchback 1.6 VTi Allure Auto Grey 40k £7,195
60 Peugeot 3008 1.6 HDi EGS Silver 43k £5,995

Vauxhall
13 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX Elite (165) Blue 32k £7,495
13 Vauxhall Astra Diesel Sports Tourer 2.0 CDTi 16V SRi (165) 5dr (Start Stop) Grey 53k £6,795
58 Vauxhall Combo 1.3 CDTi Auto With Access Ramp Silver 81k £2,995
15 Vauxhall Insignia Sports Tourer 2.0 CDTi Design Blue 29k £10,495
14 Vauxhall Meriva 1.6 CDTi 16V eco Exclusiv Blue 19k £7,295
62 Vauxhall Meriva Estate 1.4i 16V SE Grey 23k £6,495
65 Vauxhall Mokka Diesel 1.6 CDTi ecoFLEX SE Blac 22k £11,795
14 Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX Design Nav (110) Brown 42k £7,495

Others
07 Audi A4 Diesel Saloon 2.0 TDi S Line 4dr Grey 62k £5,995
14 BMW X1 Diesel Estate xDrive 18d xLine Black 30k £14,495
54 Daihatsu Copen Coupe Cabriolet 2dr Red 40k £2,995
13 Hyundai i20 Diesel Hatchback 1.1 CRDi Active Black 49k £5,495
64 Kia Sportage Diesel Estate 1.7 CRDi ISG 1 5dr White 19k £12,795
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06 Volkswagen Golf Hatchback 1.4 S 3dr (AC) Black, 111k £1,995
14 Volkswagen Tiguan 2.0 TDi BlueMotion Tech DSG Silver 50k £12,995
14 Volvo V40 D2 Cross Country Lux Powershift Black 37k £10,495

Duster making its mark among SUVs

Having sold over two million units since launch, Duster, a vehicle with an international calling, has become one of Groupe Renault's top-selling models. Dacia's SUV has made its mark in its segment.

In seven years, it has won over customers looking for a versatile, reliable and affordable vehicle. Duster's powers of attraction are practically limitless. Its highly attractive price, top-level off-road abilities, robustness and design leave no-one indifferent. Read on to find out more about a revolutionary model that has carved out a special place in the wide world of SUVs.

Marketing an SUV at the price of a city car was a bold move. When Dacia made that move in 2010, it hit on a major success. The theme of affordability was the focus of the Duster ad, in which a somewhat caricatural couple ask about the price of Duster after test driving it.

When told that prices start at €11,900, the customer is offended: "You don't think we're going to spend so little?" The Dacia Duster phenomenon was born.

The model sold over 450,000 in three years. Building on that success, the brand launched a restyled Duster in 2013 that met with the same enthusiasm, the car's now enviable popularity being expressed from 2016 on in the advertising slogan, "Another one drives a Duster".

Duster's price was clearly important at a time of economic crisis, but the car's success cannot be reduced to its attractive price alone. The model's intrinsic all-terrain qualities have also contributed largely to its success. The car's design leaves no room for doubt as to its SUV nature. Without being over the top, the styling is that of a true 4WD model. The front end exudes a sense of robustness. The wide, curvaceous wings, double light units and protective bumper clearly express the car's SUV DNA. The raised ground clearance, large wheels (16") and multiple protective features invite drivers to venture out on the toughest roads and tracks.

The model has sold over 450,000 in its first three years and a restyled Duster was launched in 2013

The interior is equally outstanding, with a modern, functional and modular cabin. And the impertinence of Dacia's SUV does not stop there, as it features C-segment equipment at B-segment prices.

With the launch of Duster, Dacia confirmed its boldness, first seen six years earlier with the release of Logan. The Dacia brand became a benchmark in new approaches to automotive consumption.

It shook up established cues once again with the launch of Duster, a true, roomy and versatile SUV for the price of a compact car.

As with all Dacia models, Duster targets customers looking to buy a fairly-priced car, an affordable vehicle with the equipment responding to their needs. In addition to its affordability, the brand moved into a new territory: the SUV market. This served to win over new customers looking for a car with real all-terrain abilities. These new customers include first-time buyers and those who would otherwise have bought a used car. With a new market and new customer base, the Dacia brand is perpetuating its success and even bringing together its own community. The Dacia community organises picnics that every year draw thousands of people in many of the brand's countries. Dacia customers are true fans, highly active in the social networks. More than simple customers, they are the brand's best ambassadors.

Duster was created in response to an observation: a need exists worldwide for roomy, robust and affordable 4x4 cars. But at the time that need was mostly unfulfilled. Which is why Dacia came up with a world first and developed an SUV primarily targeting developing markets.

The needs of European motorists were also taken into account from the start of the project. In Europe, Dacia's success demonstrates customers are looking for modern, reliable and affordable cars. But as a whole, the 4x4 offer, though broad, is more about ostentatious and expensive models – often not adapted to off-road use – rather than functional and affordable all-terrain vehicles.

The Duster story continued with the reveal of the new Duster at the Frankfurt Motor Show this week.

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Triumph Tiger is the bike for all reasons

Many bikers will be familiar with the conversation which starts with 'if money was no object, which bike would you have?' asks John Griffiths.

A common answer is, given deep enough pockets, most of us would opt for a 'stable' of machines: a sports bike to make the adrenaline flow, a tourer for comfort over long distances, an off-roader maybe. Or perhaps a cruiser?

Bikes just aren't like cars. Apart from the obvious, bikers tend to experience a closer man-and-machine relationship than drivers do with their cars: hence the desire for a two-wheeler which perfectly fits each mood and set of circumstances.

This, I believe, is the secret of Triumph's Tiger range and its popularity in the big bike world. There's a choice of 800 or 1,050cc engines (plus the 1,215 Explorer versions), with chassis and features which focus on sporty road riding or off-roading, and most stages in between.

It aims to be the bike for all reasons: a true all-rounder and the one machine fulfills a wide range of demands placed upon it. The test bike was the flagship of the 800 range, the XRT, which at £10,900 compares favourably with some of the opposition.

For the solo rider, it feels light and almost surprisingly agile: its ability to tackle the twisties is reassuring and would match many dedicated middleweight sporters.

But with two and luggage on board it becomes a capable long-distance tourer.

The Tiger 800 is a good-looking bike

The 800cc triple engine, which turns out 94bhp and 79Nm of torque, has Triumph's electronically controlled 'ride by wire' throttle system which contributes to the smooth, linear power delivery. That also allows Triumph to fit a mode switch, with an off-road mode which sets up throttle response and the traction control for more slippery conditions. The Tiger also has switchable ABS.

The six-speed gearbox is remarkably flexible, The Tiger will roll through villages quite happily at 30mph in top, then accelerate smoothly away without the need to change down if you don't want to. If you're not in a hurry you'll rarely break 4,000rpm and the bike is particularly quiet. Roll on a bit more power, drop a gear and use more of the available 10,000 revs and the soundtrack imitates that four-legged beastie from which it gets its name.

The Tiger 800 range starts at £8,800, the semi-faired 1,050cc Tiger Sport at £10,900 and the 1,215cc Explorer range – which includes models focussed for road or off-road riding – starts at £11,900.

The Tiger 800 is a good-looking bike, more capable and practical than most but equally important it's fun to ride. For such a big bike it's beautifully balance, light and quick to change direction.

It is a bike for all reasons.

Striker Jimmy Murray, who got two goals himself

Billinghams

Sporting Star

TOWN FINAL

Telephone 22233 WOLVERHAMPTON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1962 No. 1197 3d.

Wolves 8—1, Albion 2—2, Villa 3—1, Birmingham 0—3, Walsall 1—4, Shrewsbury 0—5

FOUR-GOAL HARVEST FOR FARMER

And tonic start by Mercer minors

The Kick-off

BILLY WRIGHT'S TEAM SHOCK

M&B EXPORT

How the Express & Star's Sporting Star newspaper reported the remarkable scoreline from Wolves in 1962

Ted Farmer, who in four years, netted 57 goals for Wolves

Wolves captain Bill Slater holds the FA Cup aloft in 1960

Ted Farmer scoring after just two minutes against Manchester City

Gr-eight way to kick off season as Wolves fly high

OPTIMISM, enthusiasm and excitement are the emotions all football fans deserve to feel at the start of a new season.

But you can't help but feel that positivity is in short supply for supporters of Yeovil after they saw their team thrashed 8-2 by Luton in their first game on August 5.

The Hatters ran riot on the opening day to send a message to their League Two rivals, and they are now in contention with the top teams of the division.

But they are not the only side to kick off a new campaign in such convincing fashion, as Wolves fans can testify.

Rebuild

It was back on August 18, 1962, that the Molineux men began their season in similar style with victory over Manchester City.

Eager to make up for a disappointing 18th-placed finish in the First Division the previous year, Stan Cullis opted to rebuild his side with the emphasis on youth.

Youngsters Fred Goodwin and David Woodfield were handed their debuts for what marked Ron Flowers' first game as Wolves' captain.

And while it was a day where everybody shone, it was Ted Farmer who grabbed the headlines after he notched four stunning goals.

It took the striker just two minutes to break the deadlock – with Farmer latching on to Flowers' throw-in before calmly slotting the ball past the keeper.

Jimmy Murray tapped in for a second when he connected with Alan Hinton's low ball into the box. But it then looked like City would make a fight of it when Wolves' George Showell inadvertently diverted the ball into his own net.

Wolves moved to quickly to deny the visitors hopes of a fightback when Farmer again found the target with a crisp finish just before half-time.

But immediately after the interval, Cullis's side took charge with Wolves grabbing three goals between the 47th and 51st minute.

The first arrived when Terry Wharton drove home from close range. Farmer then sealed his hat-trick with another impressive finish.

The forward then grabbed an assist, which was no doubt just called 'a pass' in those days, when he teed up Hinton for a simple close range finish. From this point, a City side with no answers saw Wolves take complete control.

They made it seven when Farmer sent Hinton away down the wing with his cross then being met by Murray for his second of the game.

Then with 10 minutes to go, Farmer completed the rout with yet another neat finish. Wolves season saw them finish in fifth place, with Everton champions.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

It was back on August 18, 1962, that the Molineux men began their season with victory over Manchester City

Boxing pundit Bunce back for city encore

RENOWNED boxing pundit Steve Bunce will return by popular demand to the ECC Sports and Social Club in Wolverhampton next week.

Bunce's one-man show returns for an encore at the venue on Showell Road on Wednesday.

The 54-year-old is a regular presence on television with broadcasters BoxNation, BT Sport and BBC Sport, along with writing for magazine Boxing Monthly and a host of national newspapers.

London born and bred but now living in Lichfield, Bunce has more than 30 years of experience and has covered the sport for five separate Olympic Games and in excess of 50 shows in Las Vegas.

He will talk freely during his speech and then front questions from the audience. Signed copies of his latest book 'Bunce's Big Fat Short History of British Boxing' and first novel 'The Fixer.' will be on sale at £20 the pair.

Tickets cost £12.50 per person or £100 for a table of eight, which includes a buffet. To secure your place, call 01902 424455.

MP: Take gambling logos off club shirts

TOM Watson has called for a ban on betting firms sponsoring football shirts as Labour pledged to tackle the 'hidden epidemic' of gambling addiction.

The West Bromwich East MP and Labour deputy leader unveiled the policy as part of a series of proposals aimed at protecting children from early exposure to betting.

Mr Watson, who is also the party's shadow minister for digital, culture media and sport, said a Labour government would encourage the Football Association to implement its own ban but was prepared to legislate if necessary.

"Football has to play its part in tackling Britain's hidden epidemic of gambling addiction," he said. "Shirt sponsorship sends out a message that football clubs don't take problem gambling among their own fans seriously enough. It puts gambling brands in front of fans of all ages, not just at matches but on broadcasts and highlights packages on both commercial television and the BBC."

Retiring Motty set for date at Banks's

JOHN Motson's retirement season will take in an after-dinner date at Walsall Football Club.

The legendary commentator hangs up his mic at the end of the season after 50 years in the game. Before then, the 72-year-old will use his famous tones at the Banks's Stadium's WFC The Venue on Thursday November 16. Motson began his career with the corporation in 1968, initially as a presenter on Radio 2. Three years later, he joined the Match of the Day team and remained there ever since.

He will have completed his 47th season when he finally hangs up the headset, having commentated on more than 1,500 games for television and radio. He has also covered European Championships and World Cups for the channel, the Euro 2008 final being his last live broadcast.

Tickets to see him in Walsall are on sale at £39.50 or £350 for a table of 10 which includes a three-course meal. Book online at www.eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc or call the box office on 01902 651 416, extension 416.

Sport

Flashback: Wolves' Farmer ploughs through defence

Page 39

Frustration as play-off bid dashed

BIRMINGHAM boss Graham Drury conceded his side's play-off dream was over after a 51-39 home defeat to Kent.

The Surestop Brummies suffered a second straight loss at Perry Barr and slipped out of the league's top four.

It was a tough night all round for the reigning champions who failed to register a single heat advantage. Drury said: "We built this up as a must-win meeting and to lose how we did with little fight and desire from certain areas of the team was beyond disappointing.

"Kent were more fired up than we were, I didn't see much spirit or belief from the side from the get go.

"I really do feel for the fans because this was a big occasion for us – and the team didn't deliver the goods.

"In the three years we've been in the National League, I can't recall a night at Perry Barr where we haven't recorded a heat advantage. It might not be mathematically over just yet, but even the most optimistic of supporters will feel like our chances are dead and buried now.

"It's disappointing to end on such a low note.This year just obviously wasn't meant to be but I believe we can hold our heads high overall."

Birmingham head to Plymouth for their final league fixture tomorrow (Friday) before staging The Tony Mole Farewell at Perry Barr on Wednesday, October 11.

BIRMINGHAM 39: Liam Carr 14, Tom Bacon 10, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 7, Layne Cupitt 2+2, David Mason 2+1, Jamie Halder 2+1, Taylor Hampshire 2.
KENT 51: Luke Bowen 12+1, George Hunter 11+2, Jack Thomas 9+2, Ben Hopwood 9+1, Dan Greenwood 5+2, Anders Rowe 3, Bradley Andrews 2+1.

Heathens league finale put on hold after downpour

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger's bid for his side to go out with a bang against Eastbourne on Monday was put on hold when their final home league meeting of the season at Monmore was postponed due to downpours.

A new date has yet to be set.

The Heathens are set to miss out on the Travel Plus National League play-offs but Pottinger says they are determined to give their loyal fans something to shout about.

They still have the second leg of their Knockout Cup tie with Belle Vue to take place at Perry Barr on October 27 while plans are in place to host their showpiece Golden Hammer individual event to close the season at Monmore Green in October.

Patched-up Cradley were thrashed 60-28 at Mildenhall on Sunday. Guest Connor Coles impressed against his former club, while Danny Ayres was also in the thick of the action throughout.

MILDENHALL 60: Jordan Jenkins 14, Connor Mountain 10+2, Drew Kemp 10+2, Jon Armstrong 10+1, Dan Halsey 9, Alex Spooner 7+3, Luke Ruddick r/r.
CRADLEY 28: Connor Coles 13, Danny Ayres 7, William O'Keefe 6, Joe Alcock 2+1, Jamie Bursill 0, Lewis Whitmore 0, Richard Hall r/r.

Depleted hosts put out of misery

Church Stretton 0 Wednesbury 71

WEDNESBURY'S first league game of the new season had them travelling to Shropshire to face Church Stretton. Stretton had a depleted squad to start the game and it turned into a formality for Wednesbury.

But, credit to the home side, they never gave up playing rugby right until the end. Matt Dale started the scoring, kicking a penalty after a few minutes. He increased Wednesbury's score a five minutes later with a try, no conversion.

Then it was the turn of Dom Weathers to get in on the action, using his speed to race down the wing to go over for the try, Dale kicked the conversion.

In the next ten minutes Wednesbury's Stanley Zvidi used his speed and agility to run in a further three tries, all converted by Dale, who added the extras to a Josh Walker try on the stroke of half-time.

Within three minutes of the restart the away side increased their lead, Ben Baker adding the seventh try, Dale adding the extras. Josh Harris picked the ball up from the base of the ruck and dived over the line for a try, Dale added the conversion. Ten minutes later winger Josh Walker ran the full length of the field to score his third try of the game, again Dale once more converted.

With 15 minutes remaining the referee decided that was enough and blew up to end the game early.

Wednesbury 2nds lost 45-10 to to Halesonians 2nd XV, Wednesbury's points coming from a try by Brett Hooper and a penalty and conversion by Dan Till.

Wednesbury 3rds won 64 -57 against Old Salt.

MATT: BAGGIES HAD NO GLOSS

DISAPPOINTED Matt Phillips insists Albion will bounce back from their defeat at newly-promoted Brighton.

The Baggies lost their first game of the season on Saturday, when the Seagulls comfortably swept them aside 3-1.

Tony Pulis's men were lacklustre on the south coast, and Phillips said the international break wreaked havoc with their preparation, particularly because Albion had a few new faces to bed in.

The 26-year-old winger, who was away on Scotland duty with James Morrison, admitted that everyone in the squad felt the performance was below par.

"We know we can play a lot better," he said. "We have to dust ourselves down. With the internationals and people being away we did not have too much time to work on things.

"But there are no excuses. We are a lot better than we showed at Brighton."

Stumbled

More than 2,500 Albion supporters ventured south in the hope of welcoming a new dawn but returned voicing some familiar complaints as the Baggies stumbled.

The arrivals of Oliver Burke, Kieran Gibbs and in particular Grzegorz Krychowiak during the final week of the window had supporters dreaming of a more progressive approach. Instead, at Brighton, they were treated to what was comfortably Albion's poorest display for some time.

The Baggies were sorely lacking in adventure against a home side entering the game without a win, or even a goal, in the Premier League.

But Pascal Gross's opener moments before the break gave them confidence, and three minutes later he added a second. By the time Tomer Hemed headed the third just past hour-mark, it was the visitors who suddenly looked the Premier League newcomers.

A late revival, with a consolation from James Morrison, could not paper over the cracks.

Substitute James Morrison pulls a goal back for Albion at the Amex Stadium

Funds appeal made by gymnast Josh

A CAMPAIGN has been launched by a gymnast to raise money to travel to Portugal for the prestigious Loulé World Cup.

Joshua Hunter, a former pupil at Ormiston Academy, needs to pay for accommodation, competition fees, training costs and living expenses. The competition takes place over September 23 and 24. Joshua has been training in tumbling gymnastics for 14 years. Now aged 20, he has reached the top level of his sport.

A former British champion, he has been a member of the Great Britain squad since 2013, has completed for GB on three occasions, and currently ranks second in GB in his age category. Joshua, who also coaches children, is seeking sponsorship.

He said: "I'm expecting to place high in Loulé World Cup, I should be looking to be in the top three.

"I'm aiming to leave there with a medal."

The aim is to raise £750. Visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/josh-hunter.

Smethwick in Premier as title won

SMETHWICK clinched the Birmingham & District League Division One title and promotion to the Premier Division with a four-wicket victory at Wellington.

Qasim Shah took 3-23 as Wellington were dismissed for 97.

Sunny Singh (26no) steered the Black Country outfit to a four-wicket win in 16.5 overs.

Moseley – whose match was abandoned – are currently favourites to join them, but any slip-up could let in Himley, who kept their hopes alive in a match reduced to 33 overs per side against Attock.

An undefeated 91 from skipper Greg Wright saw them to 196-6. The Attock innings was interrupted by rain, leaving them with a revised target of 139 for victory, but they fell agonisingly short on 136-6 after 20 overs. Thomas Rhodes did most to peg them back with 3-24.

Halesowen took advantage of Pershore's abandoned match to leapfrog them into the Division Two promotion places by defeating Penkridge. Stourbridge picked up seven points in their abandoned clash at Handsworth.

In the Premier Division, West Bromwich Dartmouth lost to Barnt Green on the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method.

In the Staffs Clubs League, Penn knocked off the 122 they needed for victory over Wednesbury without loss, Sandeep Dhillon unbeaten on 62 and Tom Nutting with 50.

Daniel Smith took 4-46 in the Wednesbury innings.

Juniors' last club triathlon of season

BLACK Country Triathletes Mark Southall, Dave Hathaway Tom Cowdale, compete in the Ironman Wales long distance triathlon. Beginning on Tenby's north beach, it comprises a 2.4 miles swim, a 122-mile ride and 26.2 mile run.

All came out of the swim well. However, Hathaway fell from his bike and had to pull out. Overall times were Southall 14:03:48 and Cowdale 14:03:19.

For the juniors it was the last club triathlon of the season at Ounsdale. Age group winners were TSS Dylan Williams, TS1 Owen Ulfig/Catherine Clews, TS2 Ben Lucas/Abbie Kennard, TS3 Zach Taylor/Holly Briscoe.

★★★

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